Hafa Adai!

SUNDAY

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you like the final design chosen for the CNMI commemorative quarter?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
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to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Going 'Green'
We all can be friendly to Mother Earth without digging deep into our pockets.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING... Page 10

Chimps' Pal
Jane Goodall has a new book, tentatively titled *Hope for Animals and Our World*.

GOOD LIFE...Page 12

Day at Ascot
This was no time for sensible shoes. Or sensible anything, for that matter.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

World Resort sues NYBA, officers for debt. **PAGE 2**
Hawaii lawmaker is the new APIL president. **PAGE 3**

Oversight probe on CUC OK'd

The Public Utilities and Infrastructure Committee of the Saipan and Northern Islands delegation has unanimously voted to convene a preliminary oversight investigation on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Sablan

The committee met on June 19, Thursday, and agreed to begin the oversight investigation, identifying several key areas of concern.

These concerns include consistency between statutes, regulations, and policies pertaining to CUC and actual practices; the agency's financial viability; actual progress and performance of contractors hired to rehabilitate and repair the engines at CUC; plans for short-term power generation relief and long-term solutions, if any, at CUC; and other areas of concern.

"Over the next couple of weeks the committee will be gathering information and documents that would be pertinent to the oversight investigation. Letters should be going out next week and the week after to CUC and other agencies," said Rep. Tina Sablan, who chairs the committee.

See DELEGATION on Page 4

OCEANIA GRAND PRIX
Female athletes compete in the 100m sprint open finals competition during the 2008 Oceania Grand Prix Series at the Oleai Track and Field yesterday afternoon.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

McClellan: Bush to blame for mistrust

By LAURIE KELLMAN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—If the nation doesn't trust the Bush White House, it's the president's and Dick Cheney's own fault, Bush's former spokesman told Congress Friday.

From life-and-death matters on down—the rationale for war, the leaking of classified information, Cheney's accidental shooting of a friend—the government's top two leaders

See BUSH on Page 4

AP

Former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, June 20, 2008, before the House Judiciary Committee hearing to investigate Vice President Cheney's precise role in the leak of Valerie Plame's CIA identity case.

Wespac backs controls for NMI fishery

HONOLULU—The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council has voted to set June 19, 2008 as the control date for the CNMI-based longline fishery and to work further on management measures for fish attracting devices in the exclusive economic zone of the Commonwealth.

ON THE NET
www.wpcouncil.org

Simonds

These, together with other measures,

See NETWORK on Page 4

Around the CNMI

World Resort sues NYBA, officers for debt

The Saipan World Resort has sued the Northern Youth Basketball Association and three of its officers for allegedly refusing to pay food and related services during the association's award banquet two years ago.

World Resort sued NYBA and its officers Roslyn Leon Guerrero, George Cruz, and Joe Diaz for breach of contract and violation of the Bad Checks Act.

The hotel, through counsel Michael A. White, asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay the $5,400 principal sum plus $2,700 interest and another $2,700 interest pursuant to the Bad Checks Act. The plaintiff also demanded payment for attorney's fees and court costs.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that Guerrero is no longer an officer of the NYBA, while Cruz, who is the acting president, is off-island. Diaz is now a volunteer and member of the association.

When asked for comments, Diaz said they are already trying to settle the matter and that they haven't received a copy of the complaint.

Diaz explained that the check bounced because of sponsorship problems they encountered then. He said they are now very careful with sponsorship deals to avoid facing the same problem.

White stated in the complaint that Leon Guerrero, Cruz, and Diaz are officers and members of the NYBA and are therefore

See WORLD on Page 4

Ex-worker of defunct factory sues insurance firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former employee of defunct garment manufacturer Grace International Inc. has sued an insurance company for its alleged failure to pay her medical expenses and airfare.

Mei Li sued Oceania Insurance Corp. for breach of contract, violation of Consumer Protection Act, unfair claims settlement practices, and unjust enrichment.

Saipan Tribune tried but failed to get a comment from Oceania Insurance.

Li, through lawyer Joseph E. Horey, asked the Superior Court to order Oceania Insurance to pay her damages, court costs, attorneys' fees, and restitution.

Horey stated in the complaint that on Sept. 23, 2002, the insurance company issued a surety bond to Grace International, guaranteeing payment in the event of Grace's failure to pay each of 12 factory employees.

Horey said the employees include Li for the payment of $1,586 in wages, $500 in airfare, and $3,000 in medical expenses.

In August 2003, the plaintiff filed a complaint with the Department of Labor against her then employer, Grace International.

On July 5, 2007, the Labor Hearing Office issued an order finding Grace liable to pay Li $1,598 in unpaid wages, $1,598 in liquidated damages, and $2,332 in medical expenses.

Horey said the Labor Hearing Office also provided that "the bond that was filed with the contract shall compensate the complainant, to the extent of the limits of the bond, if the respondent does not meet its obligations within 15 days of the issuance of this order."

Grace did not appeal Labor's order and did not pay Li any of the amount.

It shut down its garment factory in Susupe in April 2007. Labor investigators reportedly did not find any labor violations committed by Grace management in closing down the factory.

Li sought payment of the unpaid wages and medical expenses from Oceania Insurance pursuant to the surety bond.

Horey said that on Nov. 30, 2007, Oceania Insurance issued a check to Labor for Li's unpaid wages, amounting to only $1,586, the limit of the bond with respect to wages.

The lawyer said that on the same day, the worker purchased a plane ticket from Saipan to Beijing, China, for $390.35.

Li departed Saipan on Dec. 3, 2007. But she continued to seek payment from Oceania Insurance of the medical expenses and airfare pursuant to the bond in the remaining amount of $2,722.35.

"Despite repeated requests from plaintiff, however, defendant has thus far neglected and failed to make any payment of that amount," Horey said.

The lawyer asserted that in the operation of its business, particularly in its dealings with respect to the bond, Oceania Insurance "willfully engaged in unfair methods of competition, and unfair or deceptive acts in the conduct of trade or commerce, in violation of the CNMI Consumer Protection Act."

Happy Children in Paradise promo kicks off July 1

The Marianas Visitors Authority is preparing for its ninth Happy Children in Paradise Campaign commencing July 1 and running until Sept. 30, 2008. The campaign is to promote the family market in the Marianas. An expected 15,000 families will visit the CNMI during the campaign period.

Each child 11 years old and under will receive a coupon from their hotel. Coupons must be presented at DFS to redeem for a Saipan-da backpack during DFS' business hours from 10am to 10pm daily during the campaign period. For Tinian and Rota, redeeming of Saipan-da backpacks will be at their hotel, therefore no coupons will be distributed to Tinian and Rota guests.

In addition, a life-size Saipan-da character will be appearing in the DFS Saipan-da Corner to greet children from 5pm to 8 pm daily during the campaign period. ***(MVA)***

CNMI State Rehabilitation Council
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that notice that the State Rehabilitation Council will hold Its FY 2008 3rd General membership meeting on Wednesday, June 25, 2008 at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort Hotel at 10:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. Preliminaries
- **A. Roll Call**
- **B. Review & Adoption of Agenda**
- **C. Review & Adoption of February 20, 2008 Minutes**

II. Reports
- A. SRC Chairperson
- B. Committee Chairpersons
- B. OVR Director

III. Old Business
- A. FY 09 State Plan

IV. New Business
- A. Onsite Monitoring Review
- B. Local Matching Requirement

V. Consumer Forum

VI Announcements/Miscellaneous

VII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language Interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537/6538 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY, Please contact Magin lginoef (Council Liaison) two days In advance for necessary arrangements.

/a/ **Gregorio Sablan (Kilili)**
SRC Chairperson

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by RSA of the United States Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

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Hawaii lawmaker is the new APIL president

APIL General Assembly, Committee of the Whole in Guam on May 5, 2008. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HONOLULU—Hawaii State Sen. J. Kalani English (District 6 - Hana, East and Upcountry Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i and Kaho'olawe) has been elected president of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, a voluntary organization representing twelve states from around the Pacific. The first Hawai' legislator elected to lead APIL, English previously served two terms as the association's vice president.

"It is an honor to be selected by my colleagues to serve as president of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures," English said. "We are looking at a number of areas of mutual interest where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and assistance can help our individual governments achieve important goals through collective action. I'm pleased that Hawai'i will play a role in these efforts, and that I will have an opportunity to contribute to helping improve the lives of our Pacific Island neighbors."

Walden Weilbacher of the APIL Secretariat said, "It has been a pleasure working with Senator English as our vice president, and we are proud to have him as our new president. He brings to the office an expertise and unique perspective that will be extremely valuable to APIL as we continue our efforts to serve our member states."

APIL also includes three affiliated organizations: the Pacific Islands Development Bank, a regional development finance institution established by APIL to assist member countries in accelerating their economic and social development through lending and other programs; the Ayuda Foundation, a humanitarian organization which offers a number of medical and educational programs to assist the Association in achieving its goals; and Reach Out Pacific, a Hawaii-based organization that delivers medical and other supplies to the Pacific.

Aren Palik, president and CEO of PIDB, looks forward to English's leadership as the region faces new challenges. "We are always looking for fresh perspectives," said Palik. "Economic and social development have to take place in an ever-changing global landscape. Experience has shown that Senator English will be an effective leader and ally in fulfilling our mission."

Carlotta Leon-Guerrero, executive director of the Ayuda Foundation, said, "Senator English has always been a great supporter of our foundation, and I welcome his continued leadership with APIL. We all look forward to his assistance as we continue to help others."

English was elected president at the APIL's 27th General Assembly in Guam, May 7, 2008, and will be seated Oct. 1, 2008. He will serve for one year in the APIL 2008-2009 term. The other officers for the term are Delegate William Ngiraikelau, vice president, from the Republic of Palau; Speaker Judith T. Won Pat, secretary, from Guam; and vice speaker Alik J. Alik, treasurer, from the Marshall Islands' parliament.

The APIL's mission is to organize a permanent association of mutual assistance by representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands. Current issues before the APIL include those arising in the areas of resources and economic development, commerce, legislation, energy, regional security and defense, communications, cultural appreciation, health and social services, education, agriculture, air and sea transportation, aquaculture, sports and recreation, youth and senior citizens, tourism, finance, political status, external relations, and development banking.

Among the Pacific Island states participating in the APIL are American Samoa; Northern Mariana Islands; Federated States of Micronesia states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap; Guam; Marshall Islands; Palau; Hawaii; Kiribati; and Nauru. ***(APIL)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Sen. J. Kalani English chairs the Committee of the Whole at the 27th General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, Guam, May 5, 2008.

ON THE NET

Association of Pacific Island Legislatures:
http://www.pacificlegislatures.com
Pacific Islands Development Bank:
http://www.pacificidb.com
Ayuda Foundation:
http://www.ayudafoundation.org

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'Power Plant 4 saves island's power services'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The privately operated Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico has been saving Saipan's electric power distribution in the middle of malfunctions and current repair on power engines at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s main power plants.

CUC executive director Antonio Muna said the Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp.-operated Power Plant 4 is a key component in CUC's power system, delivering over 30 percent of the island's power needs.

"Without Power Plant 4 stepping up to the plate, I think our situation would be probably graver as a result," Muna said.

The executive director said that Power Plant 4's design megawatts is 20, but it has been providing 14.4 megawatts with nine of its 10 power engines.

"And that's really what we need at this point," said Muna, explaining that the island's peak load is 41 megawatts, but the power being produced is only 38.2, resulting in a power deficit of 2.8 megawatts.

As of June 11, CUC's Power Plant 1, which has a design megawatt of 81.2, produced only 22 megawatts.

Power Plant 2, which has a design megawatt of 15, only delivered 1.8 megawatts.

"Power Plant 4 has been very reliable. They are doing much better," Muna said.

During Tuesday's public forum at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, over 200 people showed up and vented their frustrations with CUC and strongly called for its privatization. The participants offered solutions, while others suggested filing a class suit against the utility agency.

Delegation panel OKs probe of CUC

From Page 1

The other committee members are Sen. Frica Pangelinan, Reps. Ed Salas, and committee vice chair Rep. Frank Dela Cruz.

Prior to this action, Sablan asked the chairman of the delegation, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, to ask for his support and authorization to proceed with the oversight investigation.

The next committee meeting will be on July 9 at 1:30pm in the House Chamber.

Sablan said the need for the oversight hearing arose during the June 17 community forum that she and other concerned citizens organized. She said forum participants, numbering about 200 Saipan residents, "overwhelmingly requested and endorsed" a formal legislative oversight on CUC.

At the forum, held at the Multi-Purpose Center, residents came together to express their grievances with the increasing costs and deteriorating quality of utility services on the island. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Network says some decisions are null and void

From Page 1

were among the suite of recommendations voted on by Wespac during its four-day meeting in Honolulu that ended Thursday (Friday time on Saipan) for the management of offshore pelagic fisheries in the U.S. Pacific islands.

The Western and Central Pacific Network reported, though, that some of these decisions have been rendered null and void after Wespac failed yet again to issue a notice of the meeting to the public as required by federal law. The affected actions reportedly include the MHI bottom fish season opening and a hearing for the National Environmental Protection Act changes.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Network said that decisions made during the Tuesday (June 17) and Wednesday (June 18) meetings are null and void because the public was not given proper notice of the meetings. It said the Federal Register shows no notice for Tuesday, two Wednesday agendas, and March instead of June.

The failure to provide public notice also occurred during Wespac's March 17-18, 2008, meeting in the CNMI and the decisions made there had to be reheard and voted upon during a makeup meeting in Honolulu on April 15, 2008. Wespac had blamed "a bureaucratic error" by the National Marine Fisheries Service for the mix-up.

The decision-making portions of last week's meetings will need to be held again at an estimated cost of $50,000-$60,000, according to the Network. It said that official participants are flown in from as far away as the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam and "in addition to their annual salaries and benefits, officials attending the Wespac meetings are paid approximately $650-day per diem in addition to their airfare, lodging and ground transportation costs."

The Network has been very critical of Wespac and its executive director, Kitty Simonds.

Scott Foster, the Network's communications director, said, "We have no doubt that [Simonds] will again lay this mistake off on others—but the fact remains, Simond's job is to provide steady management which she has not done. Simonds must have known about this before the four-day series of meetings even began. Why wasn't anything said or the important bottomfish closure vote moved to later when it would have been legal?"

Foster noted, "It gives us no pleasure to again call this error to Wespac's attention because this will require all interested parties to once-again attend or monitor yet-another meeting on yet-another day during yet-another month while our fish stocks move ever-closer to total collapse. Continued mismanagement by [Wespac] is driving the Main Hawaiian Islands bottom-fish stocks closer to collapse with the self-inflicted nullification of the few good rules they actually pass."

"Wespac will have to do what they did after they botched the public notice of the last Wespac meeting and schedule a re-do that will end up adding to the already ridiculous costs paid by taxpayers," Foster said. "Kitty Simonds' derelict management of the Council would have resulted in her dismissal if she was employed in the private sector."

Wespac is currently under two federal investigations for its expenditures.

Recommendations for NMI

During last week's meetings, the Council voted to set a control date of June 19, 2008, for the CNMI-based longline fishery. A control date may be used as a reference point when establishing a limited entry program. The measure recognizes the potential for this fishery to increase rapidly, as it did in Hawaii and American Samoa.

Two longline vessels currently operate in the CNMI. Both began operating in the last couple of years.

The Council also voted to continue work on management measures for fish aggregating devices, FADs, used by purse seine vessels operating in the exclusive economic zones of the U.S. Pacific islands.

The Council is looking to classify all floating objects that have been purposefully deployed as FADs by purse seine operations. All such FADs would be required to be marked with the owner's name and vessel identification and be registered with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Council will also look at limiting all purse seine FAD fishing in the US EEZ to registered FADs and restricting the use of FAD sets in the US EEZ waters around American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Hawaii.

However, the Council will not take a final vote on these matters until after the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission convenes in December 2008 in Korea. This international commission is expected to address FAD management during its negotiations on measures to end overfishing of bigeye tuna in the Western and Central Pacific Ocean.

Other recommendations

Additional recommendations made by the Council include the following, among others:

■ Remove the effort limit that has kept the Hawaii longline fishery for swordfish operating at half of its historical level of fishing for the past four years.

■ Modify the sea turtle hard caps for the Hawaii longline swordfish fishery to 19 leatherback and 46 loggerheads.

■ Develop draft measures for a limited entry program for the offshore handline and associated (non-trolling) hook-and-line fishery around Cross Seamount, weather buoys and private FADs in EEZ waters around Hawaii.

■ Set a control date of June 19, 2008, for the Hawaii charter vessel fishery. Concerns were raised about significant declines in blue marlin catches by this fishery and the potential for this fishery to expand with the creation of new large harbors in Kona on the Big Island and in Ewa on Oahu. Recent information also indicated that one-third of this fishery does not meet license and reporting requirements.

■ Develop measures to mitigate sea turtle interaction with the American Samoa longline fishery. Public meetings will be held with longline fishermen in American Samoa beginning in July. NMFS will also be requested to immediately undertake cooperative research with fishermen around American Samoa regarding potential measures to cost effectively reduce the longline-sea turtle interactions.

The Council is the policy-making agency for fisheries management in the offshore waters of the U.S. Pacific Islands. Recommendations made by the Council are transmitted to the Secretary of Commerce for approval.

Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council members include Ignacio Dela Cruz of the CNMI Department of Land & Natural Resources; Alberto Lamorena, Guam Bureau of Statistics and Plans; Laura Thielen, Hawaii Department of Land & Natural Resources; and Ray Tulafono, American Samoa Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

No bail for woman in less than a gram of 'ice' case

The federal court has imposed no bail "at this time" for a woman who was charged with trafficking less than a gram of methamphetamine or "ice."

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson granted the U.S. government's motion to deny bail for Xiao Feng Li.

During Thursday's hearing, Munson remanded Li back into the custody of the U.S. Marshal.

Defense attorney F. Matthew Smith reserved the defendant's right to have a bail hearing at a future date.

Li, a Chinese, pleaded not guilty to the charge of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Munson accepted Li's plea and set the jury trial for Aug. 25, 2008 at 9am.

According to the indictment, on or about April 12, 2008, Li distributed and possessed 0.76 net grams of methamphetamine hydrochloride.

No other details were given.

A federal agent served on Thursday the arrest warrant to Li at the Department of Corrections where she was detained after narcotics officers arrested her for drug charges.

Most alleged "ice" traffickers arrested by authorities in the CNMI since last year are Chinese. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'Bush to blame for public's loss of trust'

From Page 1

undermined their credibility by "packaging" their version of the truth, former press secretary Scott McClellan said.

He described the loss of trust as self-inflicted, telling the House Judiciary Committee that Bush and his administration failed to open up about White House mistakes.

The focus of the panel's hearing was the leak of CIA operative Valerie Plame's identity, and McClellan said that was a good example of the administration damaging itself by backtracking on a pledge be upfront.

"This White House promised or assured the American people that at some point when this was behind us they would talk publicly about it. And they have refused to," McClellan said. "And that's why I think more than any other reason we are here today and the suspicion still remains."

The White House dismissed Friday's hearing as unenlightening and McClellan, the president's former top spokesman, as uninformed. Republicans on the committee accused him of writing about sensitive matters to make money, a reference to his recent book, "What Happened: Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception."

"I think Scott has probably told everyone everything he doesn't know, so I don't know if anyone should expect him to say anything new today," said White House spokesman Tony Fratto.

Fratto, who is Bush's deputy press secretary, came to the White House after McClellan left, apparently in good standing, in April 2006.

McClellan, considered an ultimate Bush loyalist until the book came out, worked for Bush when the future president was Texas governor, jumped to his presidential campaign and then followed him to Washington when he won.

On Friday, McClellan returned repeatedly to his theme that Bush, Cheney and others in the administration had done great damage to themselves—and by extension to aides like McClellan—by being less than truthful on a range of official matters.

"This is a very secretive White House," McClellan said. "There's some things that they would prefer not to be talked about."

McClellan took aim at Bush's personal honesty when discussing the president's handling of allegations that he had long ago used cocaine.

In the book, McClellan recounts hearing Bush on the telephone telling a supporter that "I honestly don't remember whether I tried it or not."

McClellan called that kind of response to sensitive questions by Bush and other politicians "essentially evasion" that for Bush later "transferred over to other issues" of policy.

"It tells something about his character," he maintained.

Committee Republicans said McClellan was the one with the credibility problem.

WORLD

From Page 2

liable for obligations incurred in the association's name.

White said that on Nov. 24, 2006, NYBA and its officers entered into a contract with World Resort for the hotel to provide food and related services in connection with NYBA's award banquet.

"Defendants are in default upon the agreement in that defendants have not made the payments," White said.

The lawyer said that on Nov. 24, 2006, the defendants issued a check in the amount of $2,700 payable to World Resort. White said the check was returned to World Resort due to insufficient funds.

Despite demands for payment, White said the defendants failed and refused to pay. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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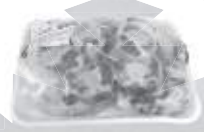
Hormel, Vienna Sausage 5oz. 60¢ ea.

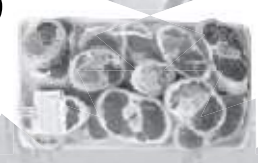
Dinty Moore, Beef Meatball Stew 15oz. $1.69 ea.

Beef Short Ribs $3.69 lb.

U.S. Beef Oxtail 10# $29.99 cs.



U.S. Pork Hocks $1.79 lb.



U.S. Pork Neck Bone $1.79 lb.

U.S. Goat Ribs Skin-On $4.29 lb.

Quail Family Pack 28 oz. $12.49 cs.

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Soft N' Gentle Tissue 12 roll $5.55/ea.

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Japan

Jpn Kanet Nihon Soba 250g. $1.10/ea.

JpnSunaoshi Nihon Noodle 200g. 80¢ea.

Jpn Aji Cookdo Banbanjii 90g. $2.00/ea.

Higasa Makihushi 280g. $3.69

House Macaroni Gratin 160g. $2.90

Aji Cookdo Subuta 140g. $2.39

Lion Mosquito Coil $1.49

Meat

U.S. Beef Shank	$1.99 lb.
U.S. Beef Ribeye Steak	$2.79 lb.
U.S. Pork Leg Whole	$1.95 lb.
U.S. Goat Steak Skin-On	$4.29 lb.
U.S. Goat Soup SLC Skin-On	$4.29 lb.
U.S. Ham, Pork Picnic SMK	$1.89 lb.

Groceries

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

A better surveillance law

Congressional leaders of both parties should be commended for drafting legislation that brings the country's surveillance laws into the 21st century while protecting civil liberties and preserving important national security prerogatives. The bill is scheduled to be voted on today in the House, and it deserves to pass.

The bill amends the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978, which was designed to constrain the executive branch's domestic spying powers. The surveillance law became a focus of debate in 2005 after revelations that President Bush bypassed FISA shortly after the 2001 terrorist attacks and unilaterally approved warrantless domestic surveillance. Many Democrats pressed for more protections to prevent future warrantless excursions; Republicans claimed that the law needed to be changed to allow the president as much flexibility as possible to thwart potential threats.

Lawmakers, led by Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., and Christopher Bond, R-Mo., in the Senate and Steny Hoyer, D-Md., and Roy Blunt, R-Mo., in the House, have struck a sensible balance. To avert another end run around FISA — President Bush used the congressional authorization for military force in 2001 as justification for warrantless surveillance — the bill makes clear that all intelligence surveillance is governed by FISA. The legislation mandates that the administration obtain a court-approved, individual warrant for any spying activity directed at a U.S. citizen — whether that citizen is on U.S. soil or abroad — and that the administration prove it has "probable cause" to believe that the person is engaged in espionage. The procedures used for surveillance of non-U.S. citizens on foreign soil must be approved by the FISA court and reviewed annually.

The inspectors general of the Justice Department and the intelligence agencies are charged with reviewing the surveillance programs, with particular focus on how many U.S. citizens are targeted, how many domestic surveillance projects are requested and undertaken, and whether the methods used by the administration to obtain warrants and carry out surveillance are narrowly tailored and show respect for civil liberties. The intelligence and judiciary committees of both chambers will have oversight powers; currently, only the intelligence committees have that responsibility. If passed today, the bill would be up for review in 2012.

Yet the compromise bill also preserves appropriate flexibility for the executive. In emergencies, the attorney general and the director of national intelligence could begin a surveillance project without a FISA warrant, but they would have to seek FISA approval within seven days. The bill also provides appropriate protections from civil lawsuits for telecommunications companies and gives these companies access to the FISA court to challenge requests they deem improper.

Striking the balance between liberties and security is never easy, and the new FISA bill is not perfect. But it is a vast improvement over the original law and over the earlier, rushed attempts to revise that law. It also provides some welcome evidence that congressional leaders remain capable of achieving delicate compromise in the national interest.

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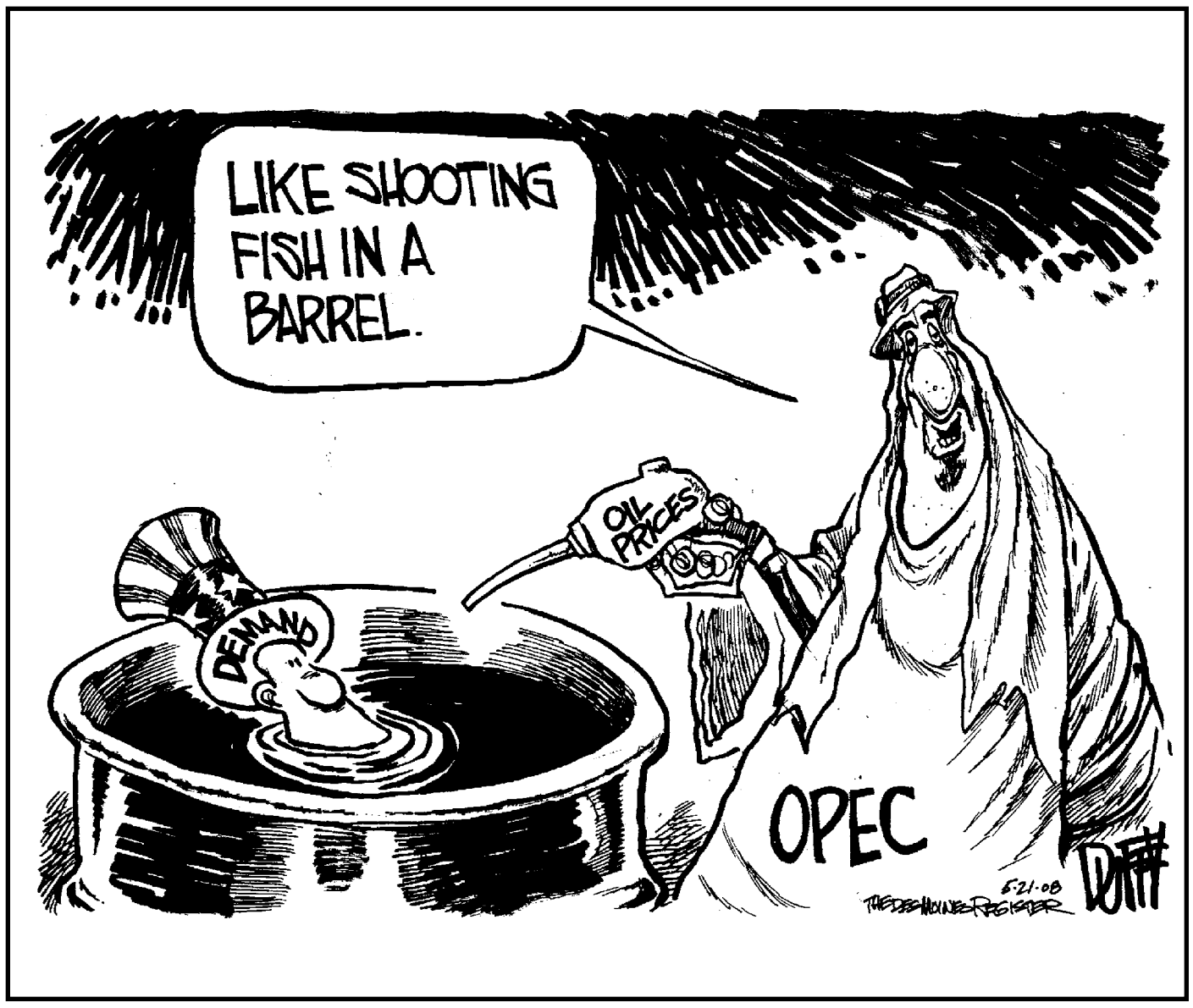

The irrational exuberance of bubble investing

By JOEL STEIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times*. E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescolumnists.com*

Like most Americans, I hear about foreclosures and other tragedies of the housing bubble and think: Why didn't I make money off this? I felt the same sense of devastating loss in 2000, when tech stocks crashed and I didn't benefit. Also, unlike my sister, I choked on exploiting that period of generosity right after our parents' divorce.

So, for the last few months, I've been tempted to bet on the commodities bubble bursting. Sure, lots of investors think oil, gold and corn are not overpriced, claiming that increased demand from emerging economies has caused a legitimate, long-term price jump. But traders didn't just discover China on March 1, and the price of a barrel of oil has gone up more than 30 percent since then. Plus, although I'm not a trained economist, I'm fairly certain that one of the technical signs of a bubble is when commercials on late-night TV ask me to mail in my gold jewelry in exchange for cash.

But no one knows when a bubble will pop, which is why I've come up with a much safer, smarter investment plan: getting in on the ground floor of the next bubble. To figure out where people will idiotically dump their money next, I called Harrison Hong, 37, a Princeton University economist hired by then-professor Ben S. Bernanke to study bubbleology. Hong thinks the next bubble might be in "green" technology, because someone is going to make a lot of cash off inventing cheap solar energy panels, hydrogen cars or a way to harness Al Gore's glow of self-righteousness. Plus, Hong thinks a lot of the green investment is based on the notion that people can do good and still make money, a faulty theory that's also been exploited by some Nigerians with Internet access.

This sounded promising, but I, unlike Hong, do a lot of my economic research by watching rap videos, where I've noticed guys flashing euros instead of dollars. So my plan was to borrow a lot of cheap, low-interest dollars and buy rising, high-interest euros and British pounds—which I would then reinvest in hot tubs, Champagne and ill-fitting bikinis.

Hong told me this plan was called the "Japanese housewife trade," which I immediately imagined pitching to Fox as a reality show, until he explained it. Because the post-'80s recession in Japan brought long-term deflation to the yen, Japanese housewives would take out very low-interest loans from their local banks (yen) and buy high-yielding U.S. Treasury bonds (dollars), and, more recently, euros and New Zealand dollars. The bubble was huge—Japanese citizens trading online were responsible for nearly one-fifth of all currency exchanged by early 2007—until it popped in August. Which explains why they now do such embarrassing things on game shows.

Emboldened by the historical pedigree of my first investing strategy, I confided my other big idea: going on eBay and buying a whole bunch of stuff once owned by celebrities. "How big of a market is that celebrity stuff?" Hong asked. Which he followed quickly with: "Is celebrity crap that important?" Being in an ivory tower prevents you from knowing much about the real economy at all.

We considered other possible overheated sectors: nuclear power plants, biotechnology and wine. Then Hong suggested sustainable suburban agriculture, explaining that his dad in Dallas was learning how to raise chickens and make moonshine. Which then made me consider investing in the upcoming, ratings-blockbuster, Dallas episode of "Cops."

I'd also heard that the market in contemporary art was out of control, so Hong hooked me up with NYU economist Michael Moses, who helped design the Mei Moses Art Index and created www.artasanasset.com.

Moses said he considers a bubble to be at least 30 percent growth for five straight years. Post-World War II art has been close, he added, up more than 20 percent a year for the past five years. This seemed a little too bubbliciously far along, although hanging a Banksy in my living room would earn me more Hollywood street cred than creating an awkward scene at a tony restaurant by paying in euros.

I had decided to diversify my bubble portfolio—40 percent in euros, 25 percent in biotech, 20 percent in green energy, 10 percent in art and the rest in celebrity crap and Texas chickens—when I realized that we might be in a bubble bubble. After all, between World War II and the mid-'90s, there weren't any bubbles. Since then, money has run scared from tech to real estate to commodities; eventually, isn't that money going to get tired and settle into solid, diversified, rationally unexuberant investing? So I'm going to stick to index mutual funds. But I'll be a tiny bit sad to live in a country smacked out of its inane optimism.

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Today's lesson: Subjects, verbs and disagreement

By LINTON WEEKS
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The demise of orderly writing: signs everywhere.

One recent report, young Americans don't write well.

In a survey, Internet language—abbreviated wds, :) and txt msging—seeping into academic writing.

But above all, what really scares a lot of scholars: the impending death of the English sentence.

Librarian of Congress James Billington, for one. "I see creeping inarticulateness," he says, and the demise of the basic component of human communication: the sentence.

This assault on the lowly—and mighty—sentence, he says, is symptomatic of a disease potentially fatal to civilization. If the sentence croaks, so will critical thought. The chronicling of history. Storytelling itself.

He has a point. The sentence itself is a story, with a beginning, a middle and an end. Something happens in a sentence. Without subjects, there are no heroes or villains. Without verbs, there is no action. Without objects, nothing is moved, changed, destroyed or created.

Plus, simple sentences clarify complex situations. ("Jesus wept.")

Since its invention centuries ago, the sentence has brought order to chaos. It's the handle on the pitcher, a tonic chord in music, a stair step chiseled in a mountainside.

To combat writer's block, Ernest Hemingway advised: "All you have to do is write one true sentence ... and then go on from there."

A proverb "is a short sentence based on long experience," according to Miguel de Cervantes.

The sentence, Billington says, is the "greatest way to render narrative."

Over a cup of coffee recently in his best-view-of-the-Capitol office on the top floor of the Madison Building, he sounds the warning. In complete sentences.

"The words 'community' and 'communicate' come from the same root word," the silver-haired librarian explains. "It logically follows that greater communication would lead to greater community, would bring us all together."

Great leaps in communication create an illusion, he says, that everyone is going to come together. The irony is that every major information revolution in the modern world has failed to stem misunderstanding and societal mayhem—or even slow it down.

In the mid-15th century, Gutenberg's printing press did not forestall bloody holy wars. The multimedia revolution of the mid-19th century, which included telegraphy, photography and the steam-driven printing press,led to increased nationalist passions and wars among nations.

The Internet revolution, Billington says, creates new possibilities for people to be in touch with others, but it could also lead to a gobbledygook language without sentences and punctuation and paragraphs—and with less understanding of the world and its meaning.

"We are moving toward the language used by computer programmers and air traffic controllers," he says. "Language as a method of instruction, not a portal into critical thinking."

A day or two after this conversation, Billington took his concerns to a group of educators at the library. The occasion was the April release of the results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, otherwise known as "the nation's report card."

According to the report, only one-third of eighth-graders in this country can write with proficiency. The New York Times reported that the crowd laughed when Billington, at the presentation of the report, sounded the alarm about "the slow destruction of the basic unit of human thought—the sentence."

Undaunted, he continued. Online communication is sloppily written, he said, and "the sentence is the biggest casualty."

Was the librarian just kicking it old school? Not necessarily.

Efstathia Siegel, who has been teaching freshman composition at Montgomery (Md.) College for 10 years, agrees with Billington. "I'm optimistic about students' enthusiasm for learning," Siegel says. "But when it comes to how their sentences are put together, that consciousness is not there."

Love of stories hasn't vanished, Siegel says, and students who want to be writers and storytellers still care about the way sentences are created. "But what about those who don't write the stories?" she says. "That's who I am concerned about. Those who don't have a love of the language."

Being able to write clearly is essential to getting a good job, Siegel says: "I'm not seeing most students care about that.

"In developing an idea," she explains, "it is essential that a paragraph begin with a clear topic sentence from which the idea is developed and expanded by the following sentences. Many students are lost because that beginning sentence lacks a driving or principal idea. What follows are disconnected sentences with little meaning."

Michael Morreau, who teaches philosophy at the University of Maryland, says: "In logic, the sentence is the basic bearer of truth or falsity. I say: (ital) It is raining. (end ital) I use a sentence to provide information about what the world is like around here."

People who don't write and speak in coherent sentences, Morreau says, don't succeed in communication. He is especially concerned about "the death of the good sentence"—one that imparts clear and concise information.

"It seems pretty obvious and uncontentious that you have got to be able to use sentences to make logical arguments," says James Cargile, who teaches logic at the University of Virginia.

Take a fragment such as: Sad, the king of France. It could mean the king is sad or it could mean it is sad to be the king. Two very different things.

Rifle through the Internet, and you find lots of examples of sentence fragging:

Mark Whatley, a psychology professor at Valdosta State University, posted a sampling of bad college-level writing.

"So was true in this study," wrote one student.

"Also, the study including finding out if males were more attracted to tall attractive females or short attractive females," wrote another.

University of Delaware professor Ben Yagoda has been teaching English for 16 years. Students, he says, are getting brighter. But their abilities to write clearly have deteriorated appreciably in the past four or five years.

Most prose that young people read nowadays, Yagoda says, is unedited—blogs, text messages and instant messages. Consequently, "the things that suffer most are spelling and punctuation. They put a comma, not a period, where there is a pause."

A recent survey by the College Board and Pew Internet and American Life Project found that most students say it's important to know how to write well, but a majority also said that Internet-style language—including abbreviations and emoticons—is making its way into their classwork.

Some linguists are not alarmed. "Language, all language, undergoes constant change," Amelia Murdoch writes in an e-mail. "And technological developments that impinge on language inevitably cause changes in language, all kinds of changes." Murdoch is president of the new National Museum of Language in College Park, Md.

"I personally do not anticipate the early demise of constructions such as 'Pass the salt' or 'Thou shalt not kill,' " she says. "I believe that people want, require, applaud and revere writing that is clear, logical, forceful and beautiful for their information, their laws, their literature and philosophy."

Martha Kolln, a retired Penn State English professor and author of "Understanding English Grammar," says, "Every new thing that comes along has its naysayers. Kids who are text-messaging ... certainly sentences are underneath those few words. We do in speech and in writing tend to use elliptical phrases that stand for the whole."

"I'm an optimist myself," she says. "We're still using sentences. Maybe they are fragments of sentences, but good writers use fragments. I would have to see more proof that the sentence is dying."

Wilson Follett, writing in Atlantic magazine, offered proof. In an essay titled "Death of the Sentence," fiction writer and literary critic Follett wrote, "To deal with the organization of thought in words is of necessity to deal with the sentence."

In all languages, he added, "it has been the great continuum."

The sentence, he declared, "is a structure inherently faithful to the pattern of consciousness." It is "an instrument inevitable and perfect for the expression of thought."

But, wrote Follett, the sentence is under attack. "To what stage of vagueness, confusion, or sheer lunacy must the English sentence be pushed to evoke any noticeable volume of outcry?"

Follett's essay appeared in Atlantic's October issue. Of 1937.

At the time, he was not concerned about millions of text-messagers and e-mailers killing the sentence. He was worried about highbrow writers—such as John Dos Passos and Harvard University's Bernard DeVoto—using long, looping sentences that did not adhere to the strict grammatical and punctuation rules of the day.

Back then there was concern that sentences were too complex; today, that sentences are not complex enough. And that's the way it.

Great pains to forge healthy hospital respect

By JULIE SALAMON
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

When I set out to observe life inside a major urban hospital for a year, I expected to find heartbreaking, inspirational and possibly alarming medical stories. I anticipated insurance entanglements, technological marvels and cultural conundrums.

I didn't expect, however, to find classes to correct bad behavior. The classes—at Brooklyn's Maimonides Medical Center in New York—were designed to enforce the hospital's Code of Mutual Respect and part of a national trend to help people in the medical field rediscover the value of that old-fashioned virtue called common courtesy.

Among the provisions that these doctors and nurses needed to be reminded of were not to use racial or ethnic slurs, or language that was profane or sexually explicit. Also, to refrain from intimidating behavior, "including but not limited to using foul language or shouting, physical throwing of objects."

Slurs? Throwing things? Was this a hospital or a reform school, I asked one physician, a department chief. He shrugged and told me that such behavior was far more common than I might imagine.

"I've worked in lots of hospitals where surgeons have thrown instruments; they get scissors that don't cut, they fling it across the room," he said. "I was at a hospital where the resident accused the attending surgeon of breaking her wrist."

Broken wrists might be extreme, but the way hospital workers treat one another sets the tone for how they treat patients and their families, who are often frightened and fragile. The simplest form of human communication—a harsh or caring tone, abrupt or attentive behavior—can be healing or destructive. So in the past few years, hospitals have begun writing codes similar to the one at Maimonides, to promote respectful behavior all around.

During my year at the hospital, real cases illustrated the relationship between respect and result. In one case I heard about, a patient had been prepped for a knee operation. The operating team had followed the universal protocol called "preventing wrong site, wrong procedure and wrong person surgery." Yet just before the procedure began, someone asked, "How come the knee being prepped isn't marked with a `yes?' "

Who had dared to speak? It was a medical student, the lowest-ranking person in the room, who had noticed the "yes" was on the other knee.

A physician who was there said, "There has to be enough respect so a medical student can raise his hand and say, `You're operating on the wrong knee.' "

More often than not, catastrophe isn't in the balance but rather the opportunity to make a difficult situation easier or more stressful.

Another small but all-too-familiar example I witnessed: A terrified family member followed the medical team into a restricted area where the patient was waiting for surgery. A nurse snapped at him to move and shut the door in his face. The man erupted in fury, until another nurse apologized and explained the restrictions were meant to stop the spread of infection. The anger and helplessness on his face quickly turned to understanding and then gratitude.

At Maimonides, the hospital president, Pamela Brier, became Miss Manners on overdrive because she believes disrespect can result in harm to patients. "Bad behavior ruins communication, and communication problems are what cause mishaps that can harm patients," she told me. "I mean communications between doctor and nurse, nurse and clerk, housekeeper to nurse or doctor, everybody."

The craving for respect is a palpable part of hospital life. Nurses and technicians feel underappreciated and underpaid. "I have nursing attendants who make $28,000 a year working elbow to elbow with these attending doctors who come into work in Jaguars," a senior nurse told me. "I think what beats them down is the hierarchy, the respect they're given or not given. Everyone beats down on the one below."

And patients can feel the reverberations of these wounded feelings.

Things can get better, though. For every act of rudeness, I encountered many, many more examples of compassion and kindness. From housekeepers to department heads, most people were doing what they could to improve care in an over-stressed and inequitable system. They did it by recognizing that the health-care system, after all, isn't abstract or anonymous; it is the sum of individual human successes and failures, in which small gestures can and do make a difference.

Like minding your manners.

Salomon is the author of Hospital: Man, Woman, Birth, Death, Infinity, Plus Red Tape, Bad Behavior, Money, God, and Diversity on Steroids.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. Light and variable winds becoming southeast near 10 mph in the afternoon.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79	▲88° ▼79°

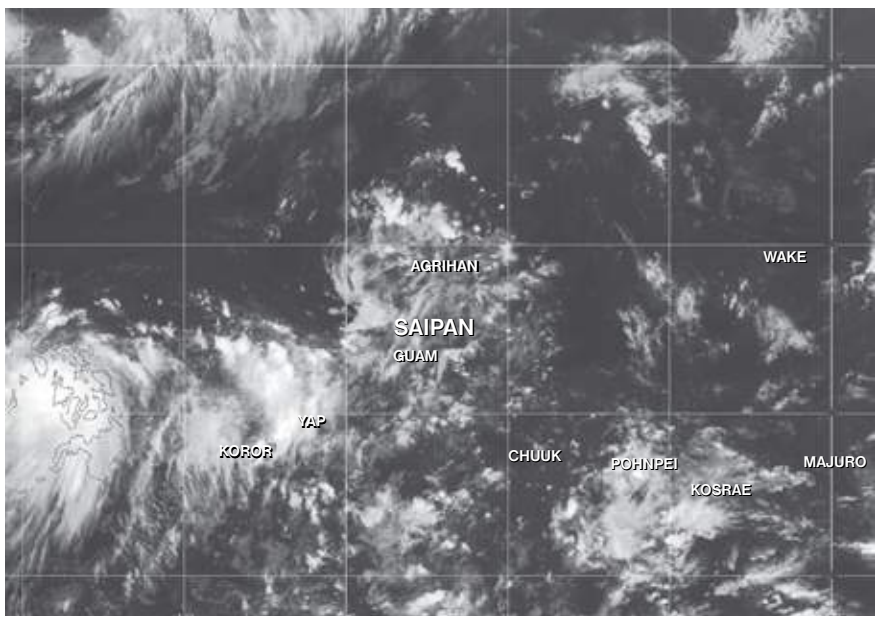
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Palau	Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼76
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼73
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲85	▼75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲64	▼50
Beijing	Cloudy	▲90	▼76
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲90	▼82
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲83	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲72	▼52
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲88	▼62
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲61	▼51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼77
New York	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼66
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲78	▼68
Paris	Thundershowers	▲81	▼55
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲76	▼64
Rome	Sunny	▲89	▼66
Salem	Cloudy	▲76	▼45
San Francisco	Sunny	▲67	▼51
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼65
Tokyo	Rain	▲73	▼76
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲81	▼67

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered at 19n141e or about 400 miles northwest of Guam. Scattered showers are occurring within 150 miles of a line from 14N139E to 22N145E enhanced by upper-level divergence. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found between 6N and 14N from 130E to 138E. This area includes Koror and Yap. A circulation is centered at 25N176E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring between 18N and 25N from 172E to 180. A weak surface trough southeast of Yap extends from EQ144E to 6N141E. Scattered showers are found within 150 miles of the trough. Surface troughs embedded in trade-wind flow are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms across Pohnpei and Kosrae between the equator and 8N from 153E to 163E and over Butaritari and Tarawa between 1N and 7N east of 172E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:19AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:40AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:12PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:27PM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:48AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:48AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:48AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:49AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:49AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:37PM	8:29AM
Monday	10:16PM	9:21AM
Tuesday	10:16PM	9:21AM
Wednesday	11:30PM	11:03AM
Thursday		11:25AM

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DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

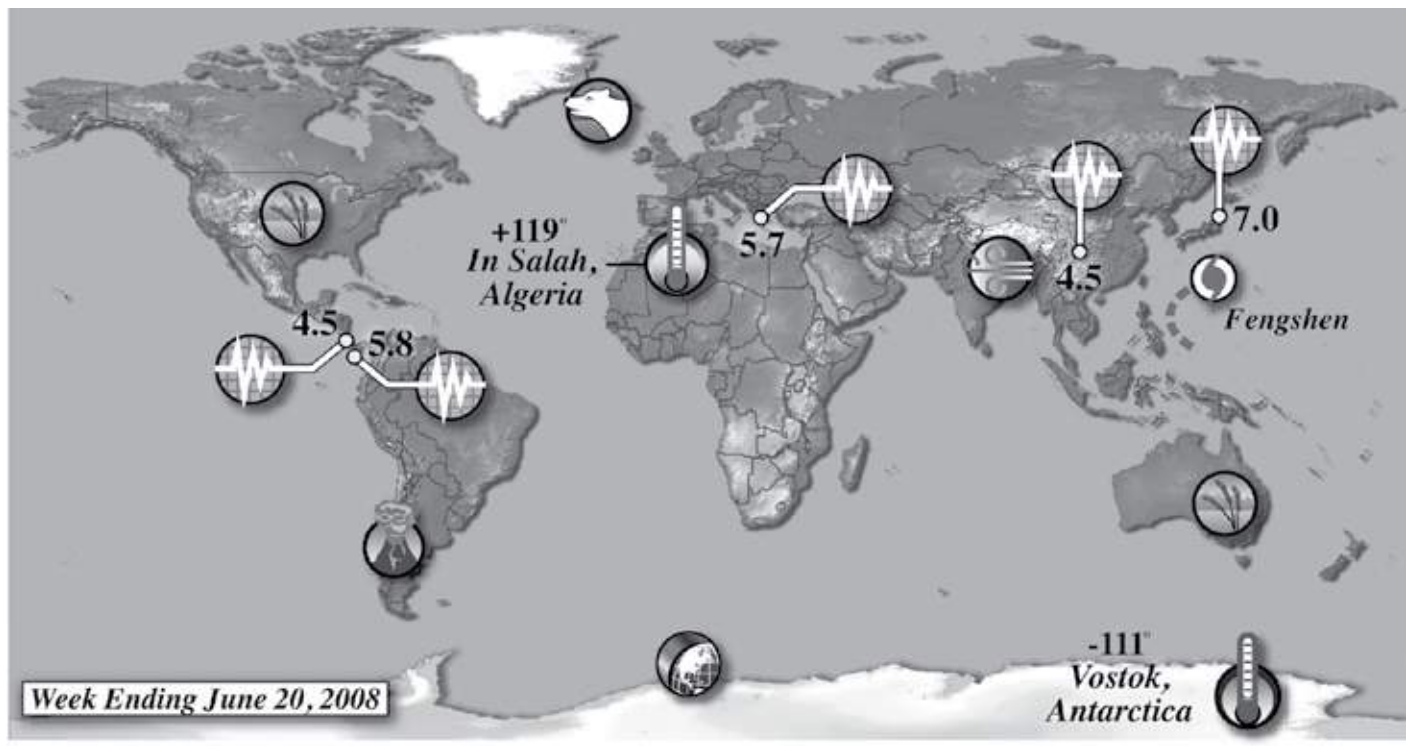
Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By STEVE NEWMAN



Worldwide Food Crisis

An unfortunate combination of a shift to growing grain for fuel and chaotic weather conditions around the world could cause global grain reserves to plummet even lower than the current greatest shortfall in half a century, agronomists warn. The latest crop losses have resulted from weeks of incessant storms that submerged vast tracts of fertile land across America's breadbasket. Even if drier weather were to return within the next two weeks, it is becoming too late in the season for farmers to successfully replant their crops. The U.S. losses come on the heels of acute crop losses due to drought in Australia's wheat belt and a complete loss of southern Myanmar's rice crop due to Cyclone Nargis in early May.

Record Monsoon

India's annual southwest monsoon blew into New Delhi on the earliest date ever recorded. It also caused deadly floods in the northeast of the country that killed at least 30 people and left more than 300,000 others homeless. Troops worked to rescue marooned villagers who had taken refuge on elevated highways and embankments after bursting levees caused vast tracts of farmland to become submerged. The Indian Meteorological Department says this year's northward advance of the monsoon rainfall has occurred without any breaks, rather than in the pulses that normally spread it across the Indian subcontinent.

Tropical Cyclone

Tropical Storm Fengshen strengthened to typhoon force well to the east of the Philippines. The storm was predicted to remain far from any significant land areas in the Pacific.

Healthy Ozone Climate

Scientists from Columbia University say they have determined that the eventual healing of the ozone hole over Antarctica during the second half of this century may significantly alter Earth's surface climate. Analyzing projections by various climate models, a team of 10 scientists found that a return to a normal southern stratospheric ozone layer could have profound impacts on surface winds and other aspects of the Earth's climate. Changes would occur in surface temperatures, locations of storm tracks, extent of dry zones, amount of sea ice and ocean circulation, the Columbia team said.

Earthquakes

A violent 7.0 magnitude earthquake killed at least 10 people and injured dozens more in northern Japan. The quake was centered in a largely agricultural region but it was strong enough to shake buildings 300 miles to the south in Tokyo.

■ A 4.5 magnitude aftershock of China's devastating May 25 temblor killed two more people in Shaanxi province. The death toll from the initial jolt has reached 69,172 with another 17,420 still missing, Xinhua reports. The agency also said that more than 80 percent of the country's giant panda habitat was either damaged or destroyed by the May temblor.

■ Earth movements were also felt in Panama, Costa Rica and southwestern Greece.

Eruption Strengthens

Southern Chile's Chaiten volcano began erupting with intensified force, causing a new round of damage to nearby communities. The upswing in activity prompted the army to remove emergency workers from the nearby town of Chaiten. Officials said that the new powerful eruptive phase could be the strongest since Chaiten awakened in early May for the first time in at least 9,000 years. Witnesses reported that two new craters have formed on the volcano, and "significant gas emanations and volcanic material" were coming from the volcano. Scientists have warned that Patagonia could experience ash from Chaiten's eruption for months if not years from now.

Second Icelandic Kill

The second polar bear to reach Iceland within two weeks only to be shot dead by authorities prompted further outcries from wildlife advocates. Both animals appear to have made a grueling 200-mile swim from Greenland to the North Atlantic island nation. Following last week's outrage over the first killing, Icelandic officials had vowed to capture any polar bears in the future, then fly them back to Greenland or give them to a zoo. And while the chief veterinarian from the Copenhagen zoo had been flown in to help capture the latest polar bear immigrant, a police spokesman said they had "no other choice" but to kill the animal after it charged a group of reporters who had rushed to chronicle the latest Arctic arrival. Some questioned why the police failed for a second week in a row to keep people away from the animals until they could be captured. Polar bear sightings have been rare in Iceland until this summer. The two arrivals in such a brief period could lend credence to warnings that global warming is creating more perilous conditions in the bears' habitats.

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OFFBEAT BRIEFS

New York man accused of hiding in woman's couch

NEWBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—Police say a New York man cut a hole in a woman's couch and hid in the carved-out space until she came home. Newburgh police said the woman sat on the couch Wednesday evening and felt a bump in the cushions move. She jumped up and David Joe Limones emerged from his hiding place, knocking a cell phone out of her hand. The woman was on the phone with a friend when she entered her apartment because she had filed an earlier complaint against Limones and was worried he might be there. Police said she had asked the friend to stay on the line and call police if something went wrong. When officers arrived, they found Limones and the 22-year-old woman arguing on the apartment's balcony. Limones, 27, faces burglary and other charges. He is being held on $20,000 bail.

Ex-cook pleads guilty to putting hair in steak

WEST BEND, Wis. (AP)—A former restaurant cook has pleaded guilty to a food-tampering charge alleging he inserted hairs in a steak before giving it to a dissatisfied customer. Ryan Kropp, 24, of West Bend, was fired along with another cook after the incident Feb. 23 at the Texas Roadhouse restaurant. The criminal complaint said that when a manager asked a customer how his steak was, the customer said it was somewhat overdone, although he had almost finished eating it and refused an offer of a new steak. But the manager insisted on having Kropp prepare a new steak the way the customer wanted it, medium rare, so that he could take it home. The customer called the restaurant and police after finding hair as he was eating the steak the next day. According to the complaint, a second kitchen worker told police Kropp had put a slit in the cooked steak and pushed something inside, then stated, "These are my pubes," referring to pubic hair. Kropp told police he put a few of his facial hairs on the steak, saying he was angry the customer sent the other steak back and thought he was "just trying to get free stuff," the complaint said.

Good Housekeeping

Be smart about going green

By GARY DYMSKI
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

No matter where I turn, I'm overwhelmed by "green." The other day I came across what a manufacturer assured me was a "greener" brand of toothpaste. (This did not appeal to me.)

To many manufacturers, I'm afraid, green only means charging consumers more money for items that, well, really are inexpensive. "Natural" cleaners are growing in popularity; a recent research company reported annual sales last year hit $105 million, up 23 percent from the previous year.

I'm here to tell you we all can be friendly to Mother Earth without digging deep into our pockets. In fact, there are ways to save money by going green.

COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

Also known as CFLs, these bulbs use 70 percent less energy and last 10 times longer than conventional incandescent bulbs.

The Environmental Protection Agency says replacing a 60-watt incandescent with a 13-watt CFL -- each provides the same amount of light -- can save at least $30 in energy costs over the life of the bulb. Savings can grow during hot, humid summers, when air conditioners are in use, because CFLs reduce energy costs linked to home cooling.

Related: When replacing lamps or light fixtures, look for the Energy Star label. Fixtures made to the Energy Star standards use 75 percent less energy and generate 75 percent less heat than conventional lighting fixtures.

To learn more: Energystar.gov (click on the "lighting" link at left).

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCES

These more efficient appliances can use 50 percent less energy and water than standard models. While Energy Star appliances cost more up front, money saved on utility bills can pay for the difference over time.

Studies say Americans average about $1,900 in household energy costs annually. Replacing all appliances with Energy Star models will cut energy costs by about 5 percent. Of course, it wouldn't be cost-effective to replace every appliance, but when buying new, buy smart.

Related: Need a new fridge? A new Energy Star model uses about 40 percent less energy than one manufactured before 1993 and 15 percent less than one built in 2001.

To learn more: EnergyStar.gov (click on "appliances" link at left).

LEARN MORE AT energystar.gov

CLEANING SOLUTIONS

White vinegar, baking soda and borax are among the natural products our grandparents used to clean windows, counter tops, sinks and even clothes. They save money and eliminate toxic emissions indoors.

Another way to save is to use smaller amounts of traditional cleaners. For example, most manufacturers of liquid laundry detergents suggest using a quarter-cup of detergent for cleaning a medium-size load. Often, consumers use twice the amount suggested.

Related: Liquid laundry soap is easy to concoct, using various amounts of grated hand soap, borax, washing soda and water. Check online for recipes.

To learn more: Care2.com is a Web site dedicated to green-living recipes for nontoxic cleaning and pest control.

PROGRAMMABLE THERMOSTAT

A model that controls both heating and central air-conditioning can run a little more than $100. But the payback is fast, less than a year in most cases.

Research shows that programming heating and cooling systems to coincide with the coming and going of occupants can save $150 to $180 in as little as seven months.

Related: Consider "setback" temperatures (down in winter, up in summer) when you leave home for more than an hour or so. Many critics say setback practices waste energy, because it takes lots of energy to restore indoor temperatures. But Department of Energy studies say that a setback of 10 degrees to 15 degrees over eight hours reduces total heating costs from 5 percent to 15 percent.

To learn more: Visit eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips/heating(underscore)cooling.html for tips.

REDUCE INDOOR WATER USE

Old aerators, faucets and shower heads waste water. Newer, more efficient models -- many of which cost fewer than $40 -- dispense water at a rate of 1.5 gallons a minute and use 30 percent to 50 percent less water than standard models (flow rates of 2.5 gallons per minute or higher).

According to the EPA, the average home, retrofitted with water-efficient fixtures, can save 30,000 gallons annually.

Related: When replacing an old toilet, consider new lines of dual flush toilets, designed to use less water for disposing liquid waste.

To learn more: The EPA's WaterSense program is comparable to the Energy Star program. Products manufactured under WaterSense standards use less water than traditional products. As warm weather nears, remember outdoor irrigation uses tons of water. Find ways to reduce usage at epa.gov/WaterSense/pp/index.htm.

RECHARGEABLE BATTERIES

Common alkaline batteries last a few years; they lose 8 percent to 20 percent of their charge annually, even when kept in original packaging. But rechargeable batteries can be reused as many as 500 times and are extremely effective in remote-control devices for household electronics, like televisions, audio systems and DVD players, digital cameras and small flashlights. They are also more environmentally friendly because they reduce the amount of toxins released in landfills.

Related: Recycle old rechargeable batteries, those found in cordless power tools, cell phones and cordless phones, laptop computers, camcorders, digital cameras and remote-control toys. Visit www.rbrc.org for information.

To learn more: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has a fact sheet on household batteries at www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8819.html.

Other ways to save the Earth

BUY RECYCLED PRODUCTS

Making a ton of paper from recycled material can save as many as 17 trees and will use 50 percent less water than making paper from virgin fiber, says the EPA. So the next time you purchase white office paper, look for the recycled brand. But beware of false labels. The EPA has guidelines on the content of all types of recycled products at epa.gov/cpg/products.htm.

Related: Paper is the country's No. 1 disposable material. For every 100 pounds of household trash, 35 pounds are paper. Separate old newspapers and office paper for recycling in your community's trash collection.

To learn more: Visit the Energy Information Association at eia.doe.gov for more tips.

PAPER MULCH

Shredded white paper and newspaper can be used in gardens and plant beds for mulch. Placed shredded material around plants as you'd use wood mulch. To cover the white, place a thin layer of wood mulch over the paper mulch. And don't worry about ink: most ink used in newspapers and white paper is soy-based and nontoxic.

Related: Studies seem to show that incorporating shredded paper in compost piles is the best way to use paper mulch. Adding it directly to the base of some plants can affect soil fertility.

To learn more: To read a report on paper mulch from North Dakota State University, www.ag.ndsu.nodak.edu/oakes/1996Report/npms96.htm.

BATTERY-POWERED YARD TOOLS

Replacing old, gas-powered lawn and garden equipment with new, cordless tools reduces airborne pollutants, including carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides. Black & Decker, Toro and Homelite are among the manufacturers of battery-powered yard tools, from edgers to blowers to line trimmers.

Related: The American Lawn Mower Co., www.reelin.com, of Shelbyville, Ind., is the largest producer of push-reel mowers in the United States.

To learn more: A new emission control standard for small-engine equipment should be in place by 2011 or 2012. Visit www.epa.gov/oms/equip-ld.htm for information.

SWITCH TO SEAWEED-BASED FERTILIZERS

Instead of spreading synthetic fertilizers, often made from petroleum and sewage sludge, go organic. Organic lawn fertilizers made from kelp and bone meal are high in nitrogen.

Loose stair tread needs repair

By SAMANTHA MAZZOTTA

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Q: I returned home from a business trip last week and, walking up the stairs, one of the steps actually lifted up from the back as I put my foot on it, then flopped back into place as I continued up. I put some wood glue along the back edge and tapped it tight against the vertical board behind it, but it has come loose again. Any tips?—Edward F., via e-mail

A: If you can access the underside of the stairs, place sturdy screws through the riser (the vertical board between each step) and into the back of the step to make sure it stays in place.

Many staircases are enclosed, however, so you'll have to make the repair from the topside. I'd recommend inspecting the step closely before securing it to make sure it's not damaged. If you can pull the step away from the riser and stringers (the vertical bracing on either side of the step) without damaging the wood, do so. (A pry bar and hammer are helpful.) Inspect all surrounding wood for damage and scrape away old glue and paint from the contact surfaces.

If the step is damaged -- cracked, broken or rotted -- it should be replaced; measure and cut a new tread to size and test fit. If it's not damaged, remove old nails and test fit.

Apply a bead of construction adhesive along the tops of the stringers, and set the step in place. To fasten it from the topside, drill pilot holes through the tread into the tops of the stringers (two or three each side) and drive screws through them. Countersink the screws and fill the holes with wood putty or plugs.

HOME TIP: While squeaky stairs are an annoyance, sagging or loose stair treads indicate more serious problems. Access the underside of the staircase to inspect the condition of the wood if more than two steps are in poor condition.

Send questions or home-repair tips to homeguru2000@hotmail.com, or write This Is a Hammer, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

KITCHEN MAGIC

Mixed Grill

1/2 cup orange marmalade
2 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon fresh rosemary, or 1 teaspoon dried rosemary leaves, chopped, crushed
3/4 teaspoon salt
6 fully cooked bratwurst, knockwurst or frankfurters
1 (3 1/2-pound) chicken, cut into quarters
Tomato wedges, for garnish

1. In small bowl, mix orange marmalade, lemon juice, rosemary and salt.

2. Cut a few slashes in each bratwurst to prevent them from bursting while cooking.

3. Place chicken quarters on grill over medium heat; cook until golden on both sides, about 10 minutes. Then to avoid charring, stand chicken pieces upright, leaning one against the other. Rearrange pieces from time to time and cook until fork-tender and juices run clear when pierced with knife, about 25 minutes longer. During last 10 minutes of cooking, place bratwurst on same grill. Brush chicken quarters and bratwurst frequently with orange-marmalade mixture.

4. Garnish with tomato wedges to serve. Makes 6 servings.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC ITB 08-011
This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUSUPE SPORTS COMPLEX GRANDSTAND PATHWAY, in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Seventy Five Dollars ($75.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $4.05 per hour which took effect on May 25, 2008, as established by Federal law or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision No. CM2008-0001, whichever is greater.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 25, 2008, at the proposed project site located near the Ada Gym in Susupe, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, June 26, 2008.

Sealed bids must be marked NMHC-ITB08-011. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than 10:00 a.m., local time Thursday, July 03, 2008. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, July 03, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 03, 2008, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than July 15, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 8:00 a.m., local time, July 16, 2008. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time on July 03, 2008.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is thirty (30) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US$500.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC hereby notifies bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Acting Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC ITB 08-012
This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the CONSTRUCTION OF THE TINIAN AMPHITHEATER CONCRETE BLEACHER/ELECTRICAL CONTROL ROOM AND STORAGE, in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Tuesday, June 24, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars ($100.00) is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $4.05 per hour which took effect on May 25, 2008, as established by Federal law or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision No. CM2008-0001, whichever is greater.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, June 30, 2008, at the project site of the Tinian Amphitheater that is currently under construction in San Jose, Tinian, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director of the NMHC, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, July 1, 2008.

Sealed bids must be marked NMHC-ITB08-012. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than 10:00 a.m., local time Monday, July 07, 2008. Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted.Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, Monday, July 07, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 07, 2008, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than July 16, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at 8:00 a.m., local time, July 17, 2008. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time on July 07, 2008.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. 500514, Saipan, MP 96950. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is sixty (60) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US$500.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

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All documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of the Bid Bond, Certified Check, or Cashier's Check, which will be returned to the proposers after the acceptance and award of contract to the successful contractor.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Acting Chairwoman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

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The Good Life

Leaving her animal cage to save the planet

By TAMI ABDOLLAH
(C) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

SAN DIEGO—The small room was dark and windowless, the lights dimmed. "Jane prefers low light," said one of her staff members.

Jane Goodall, 74, walked into the room, her hands still moist after a quick stop at the restroom (she doesn't use paper towels). The renowned primatologist who began her work with chimpanzees in Tanzania nearly 50 years ago is, these days, on a broader assignment. Over the past 22 years, Goodall has stayed no more than three weeks in one place as she tries to educate Earth's top primates about environmentalism, inspire hope and get them to save their planet.

Her newest book, tentatively titled *Hope for Animals and Our World*, is about animals that have been rescued from the brink of extinction. It will be out in fall 2009.

Recently, Goodall sat down in this dark room on the University of San Diego campus to talk about her landmark work with chimpanzees, which began nearly 50 years ago, and also some questions about herself.

Question: Is your work still centered around or focused on chimpanzees?
Answer: Not really. It's very, very important to me that we continue to study, that we do it in the right way, that there's enough money for it, that we try to protect those chimpanzees into the future by working with all the people living in poverty around the park and then hoping more and more of them will enable part of the land to regenerate so the chimps are no longer trapped as they are now; they're surrounded by cultivated fields. In five years, you get a 30-foot tree. So they're coming back, but you know, the villagers if they wanted could cut them down, there's nothing to stop them, except goodwill.

Q: You talked a bit about poverty as one of the reasons for habitat destruction and the disappearing chimps. How do you deal with poverty as an issue?
A: How you deal with poverty is to improve the lives of the people. We did not go into these villages like so much well-meaning foreign aid. We didn't go and say: 'We're really sorry for you and we brought this grant (we had a grant from the European Union), and we want to do this, this and this to make your lives better.' Rather, we sent ... Tanzanians into the villages who sat down and listened about, 'What would you really feel would make your lives better?' And of course, it was nothing to do with conservation or the environment, at the start. It was health, which obviously ties into the environment, but that came later, and education for their children.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Jane Goodall's newest book will be out in fall 2009.

Q: You're celebrated as a primatologist, for discovering all these things about chimps, and now you're known for environmental outreach. How does this all relate back to the chimpanzees?
A: Because it all started when I went to a conference, where for the first time (there) were all the people doing field studies of chimps across Africa. And the pictures of their various study sites were so shocking. And I just felt I couldn't any longer sit in my little paradise, I had to try and do something.

Q: Is it hard being away from Gombe, from the chimpanzees?
A: No, it's not really hard. I mean, I think about it a lot, I see quite a lot of video. ... I try and fill up with that atmosphere. But of course Gombe isn't the same as it was. It's not; it's no longer. ... Now there's all these students, there's the new health regulations, there's more people, there's tourists coming in and out and the park staff have made the little trails I used to follow into sort of wide trails.

Q: How can you be so optimistic?
A: Because ... the human brain is already beginning to come up with ways that we can do things better. I don't mean just technology, although that's amazing. But also I mean when it comes to thinking about our ecological footprint, how we can make them lighter and how we can try and become more carbon neutral, waste less, not use bottled water. Just all the little things that we can do each day: Choose wisely what to buy, refuse to buy some products. And basically never give up, sometimes write letters, whatever, all those kinds of things.

Q: What little things do you do in your own life?
A: I switched all these lights off, and I had the previous interview outside. Turn the lights off. When you go into a hotel and all the lights are on, put them off. Some hotels have little notices that say if you're prepared to use your towels again hang them on the rack, but the maids seldom, I don't know, I think they're just schooled to change sheets and towels every day. So I don't let the maids in. Then you get these little notes that say because we respected your privacy ... (she laughs) when do you want your room cleaned? I don't! ...

Water. (She points to a glass pitcher of water seated on the coffee table.) What would happen to that water if we don't drink it? It'd be tipped away, wouldn't it? We're going to water a plant, because I think they'll tip it away, it's not 'hygienic' anymore.

LOS ANGELES TIMES
Jane Goodall, world-renowned primatologist, helps students plant a tree at the University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice. "I've planted hundreds of trees around the world using just my hands," she said.

And yet there are people in some countries, they would kill for that, to get water that pure, that clean; they've never seen it in their lives. That would be like gold for them. And we waste it.

Q: What do you think about some of the criticisms about your methods, in retrospect, now?
A: Some of it's true. And if I hadn't gone at all, there'd be no chimps because the people were moving back in, so that's one thing on the positive side. And the banana feeding, it actually turned out to be an amazing field experiment. And the good thing about it was when we realized that this intensive feeding wasn't a good idea ... within a couple of weeks the chimps were completely back to their old behaviors. ...

I always thought the main thing the banana feeding did, other than help me to understand chimps a whole lot better, was to make friends of friends who might not have met very often and to create enmity between chimps (who fought over the food) who often might not see each other very often.

Q: You spoke a lot about your mother, about how close a relationship you had, and how much of a support she was. I believe your mother passed away five years ago. How has that been for you?
A: Well, you know when your parents get to be that age, you know it's going to, they can't live forever. So you kind of prepare for that I think. She was 96, and her life wasn't really very good. I mean, mentally she was sharp as a knife, but she got Parkinson's and she got arthritis. And so although you can't say you're pleased when your mother dies, I really think she's in a better place. I didn't want her to go on and linger, nor did she. ... But you do feel—I mean, I still think: 'Oh, gosh I wish I could tell Mom that,' or, you know: 'I wonder what she would say?' You just go on feeling that way.

Outside, university officials pointed to a garden snake curled up against the building window. Goodall stopped to take out a small digital camera, then walked outside to take photos, oblivious to nervous officials and staff members.

Three university gardeners approached, wielding a long pole and trash cans.

But Goodall stood between them and the snake, warding them off, for just a few minutes longer.

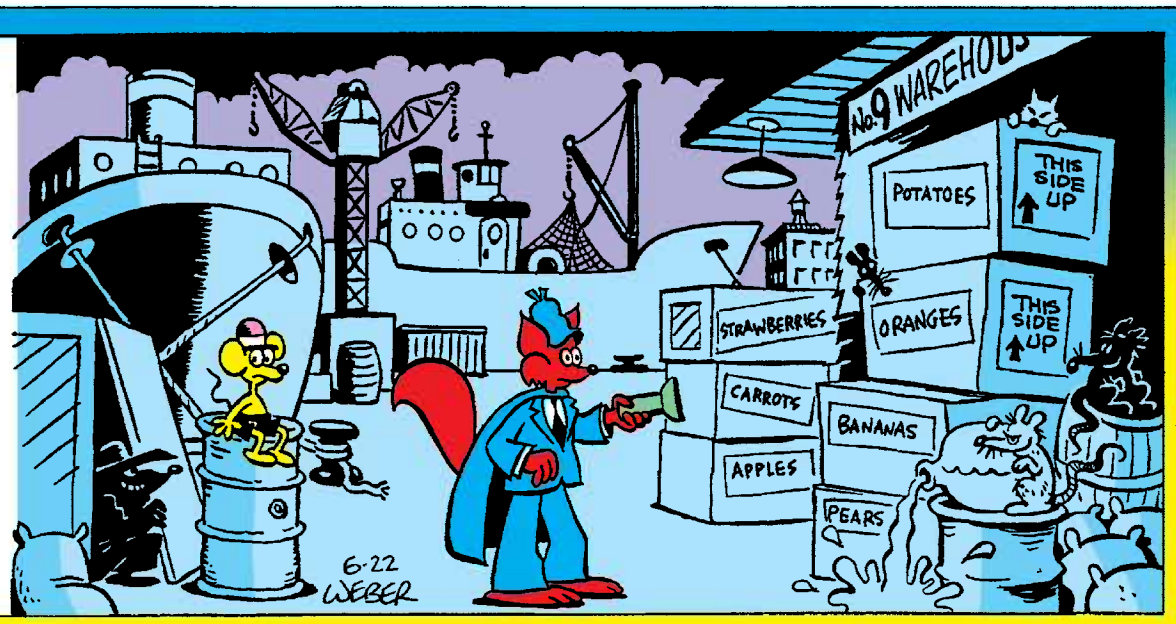
Bob Weber Jr.'s Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

Which two scenes are exactly alike?

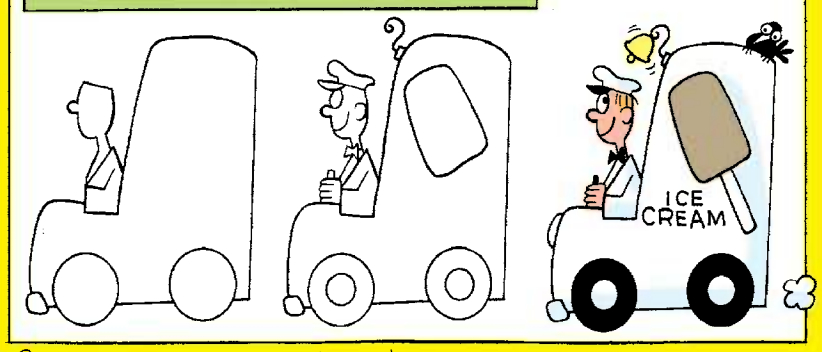
Answer -- Numbers two and three.

An international jewel thief stole a diamond necklace in the South American country of Ecuador. The thief hid the necklace in a food crate that was shipped to this New York loading dock. Only one of these food crates was imported. Which crate will Slylock inspect?

Solution -- Slylock will inspect the crate of bananas. Ecuador is the top banana-exporting nation.



HOW TO DRAW an ice cream truck



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Henry Cohen, age 9, of Charlottesville, VA

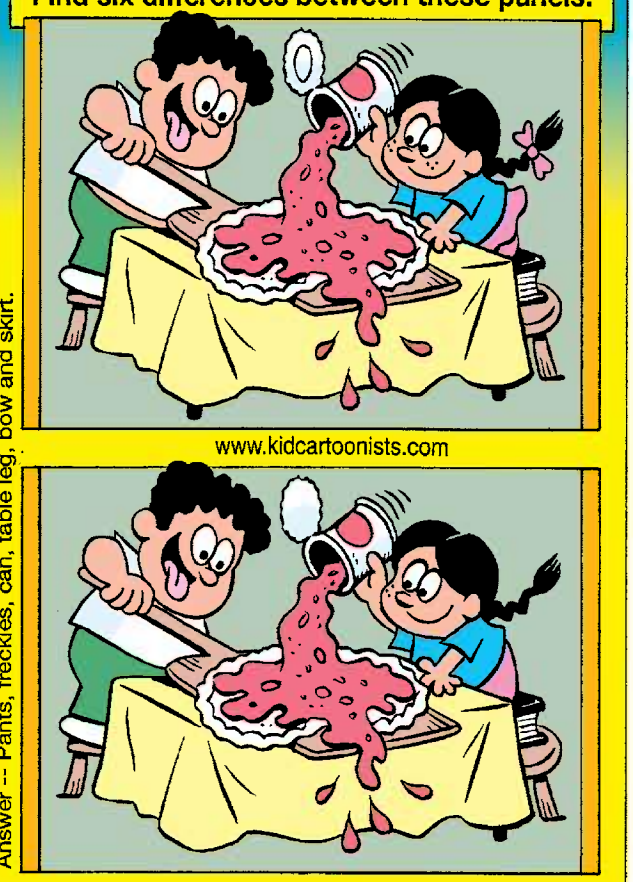
Submit your drawings at **www.kidcartoonists.com**

The scrambled words are pizza toppings. How many can you unscramble?

a) NONIO
b) GUSASEA
c) NIPERPOPE
d) OSMHOSURM

Answer -- a) Onion b) Sausage c) Pepperoni d) Mushrooms

Find six differences between these panels.



Answer -- Pants, freckles, can, table leg, bow and skirt.

www.kidcartoonists.com

New! The fourth **Find the six differences** collection is here. Send $4 (check/money order in U.S. funds made payable to King Features) with your name and address to **Six Differences No. 4,** P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

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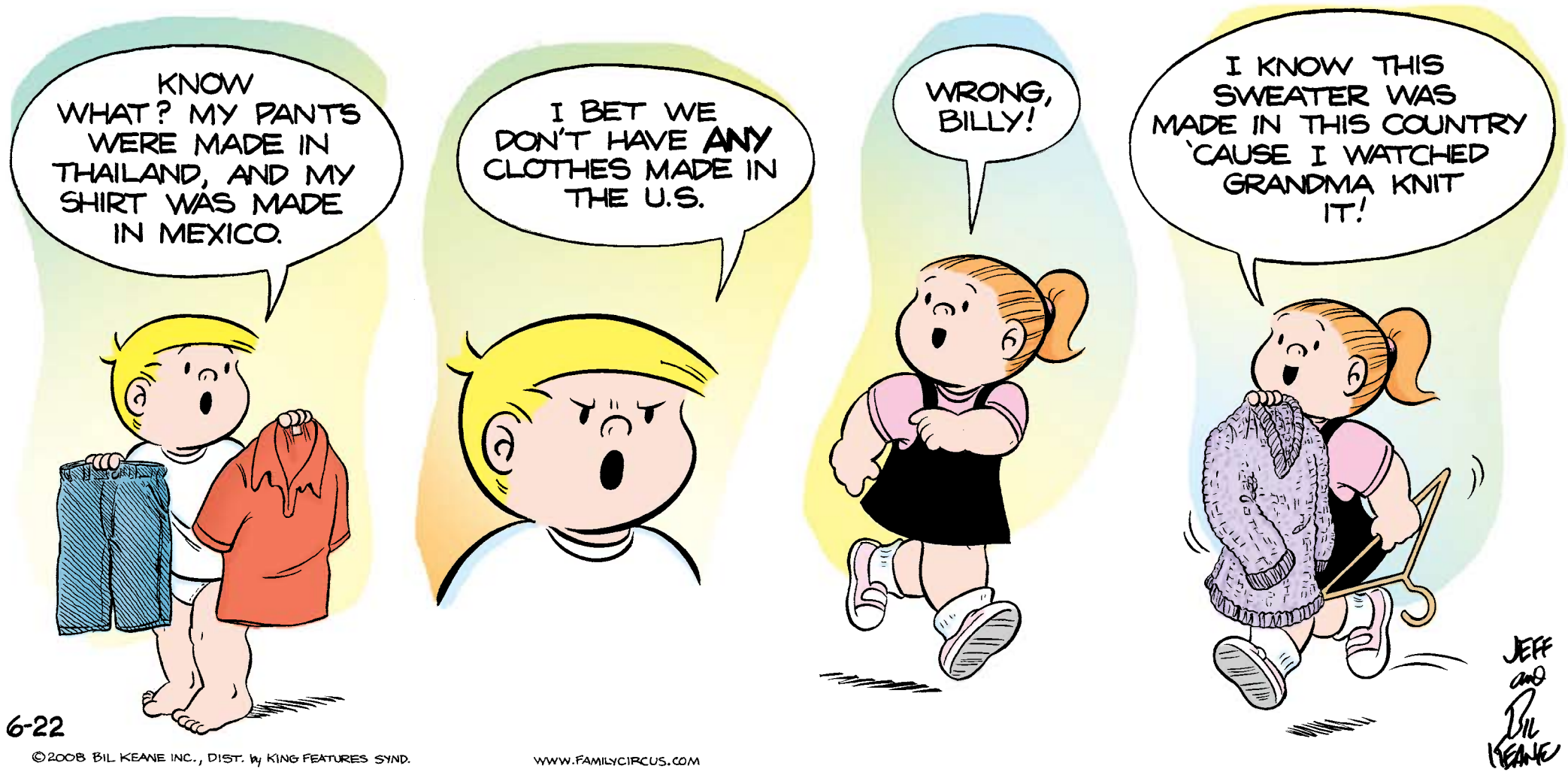
THE FAMILY CIRCUS®

By Bil Keane


KNOW WHAT? MY PANTS WERE MADE IN THAILAND, AND MY SHIRT WAS MADE IN MEXICO.
I BET WE DON'T HAVE ANY CLOTHES MADE IN THE U.S.
WRONG, BILLY!
I KNOW THIS SWEATER WAS MADE IN THIS COUNTRY 'CAUSE I WATCHED GRANDMA KNIT IT!
6-22
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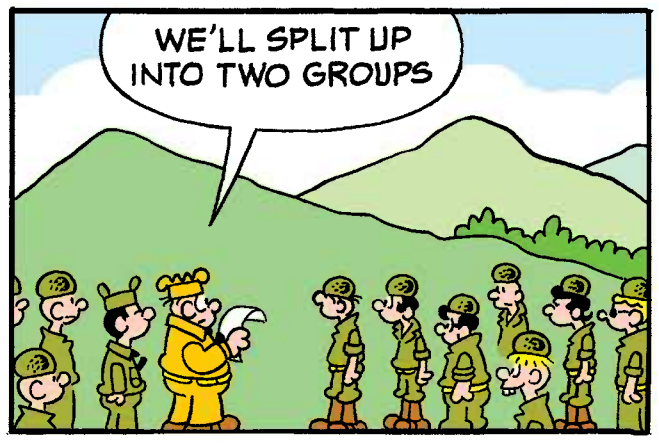

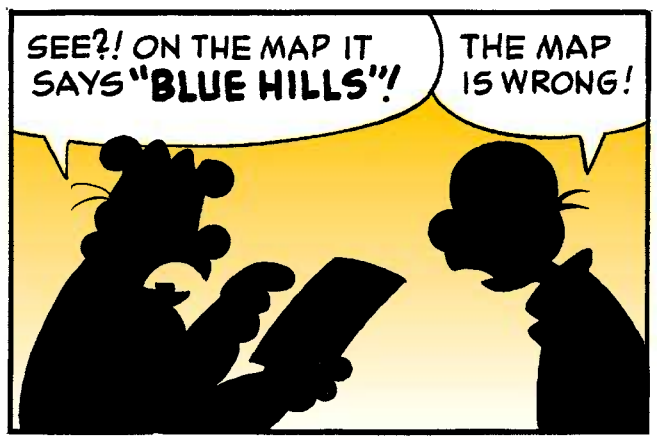

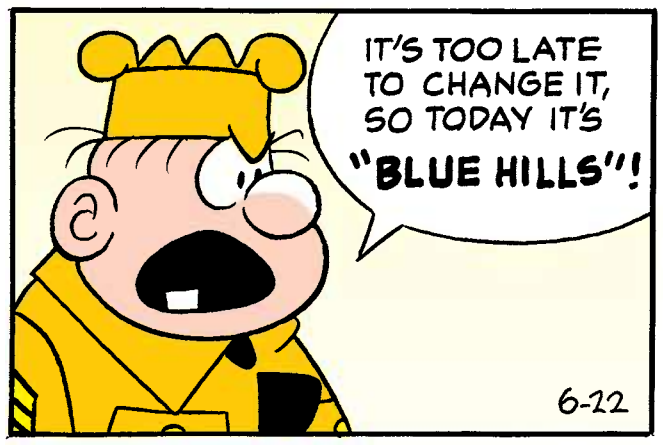

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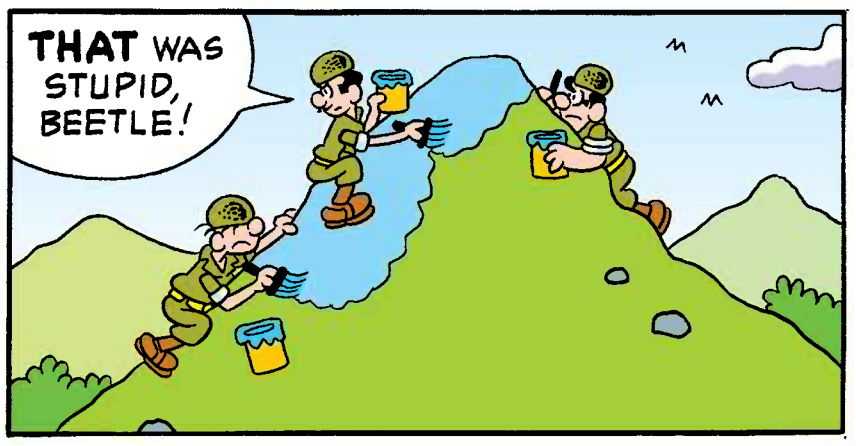

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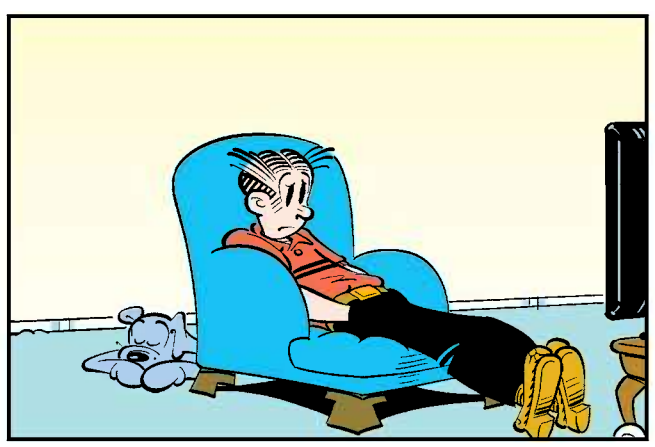
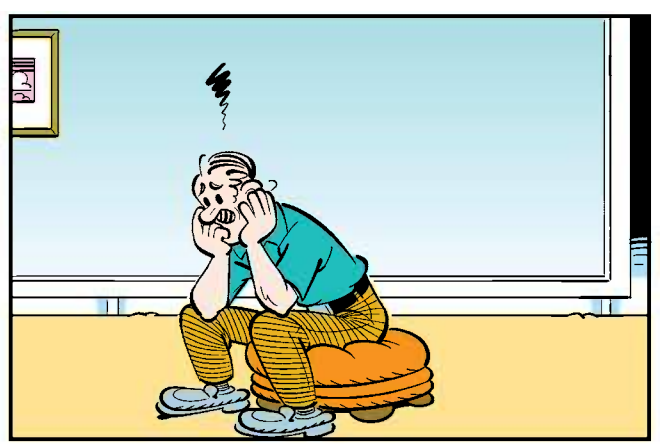
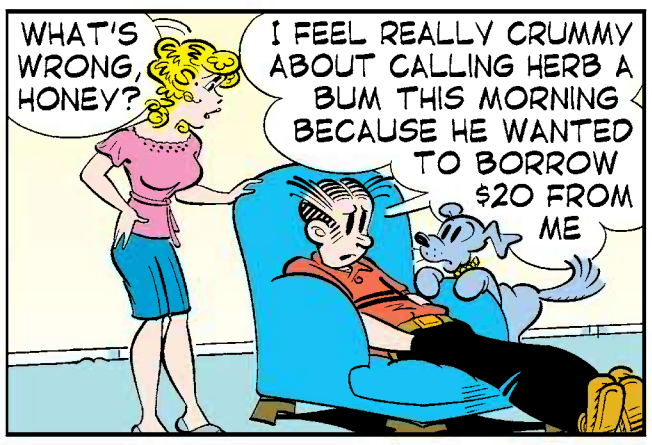
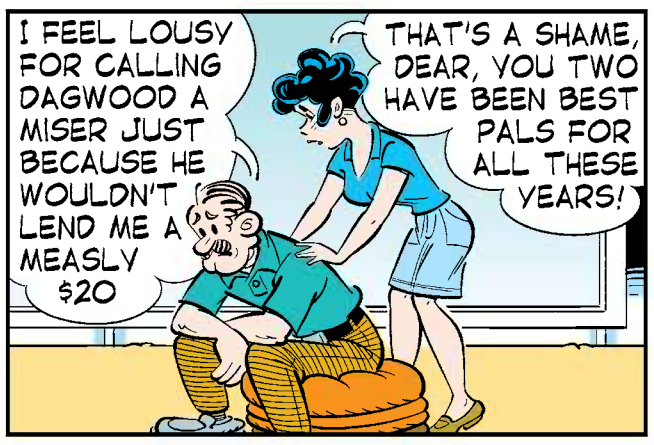
BLONDIE

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

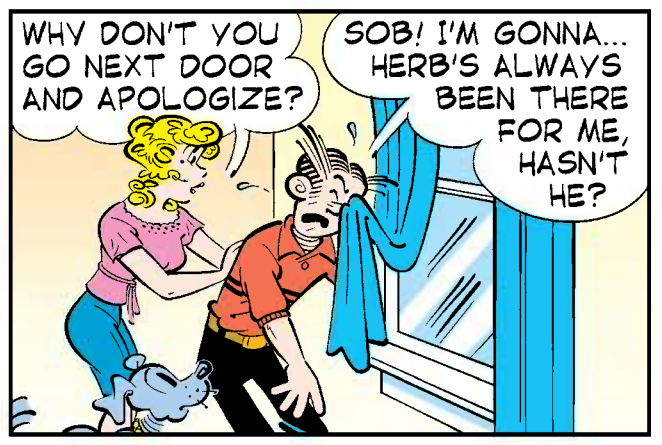


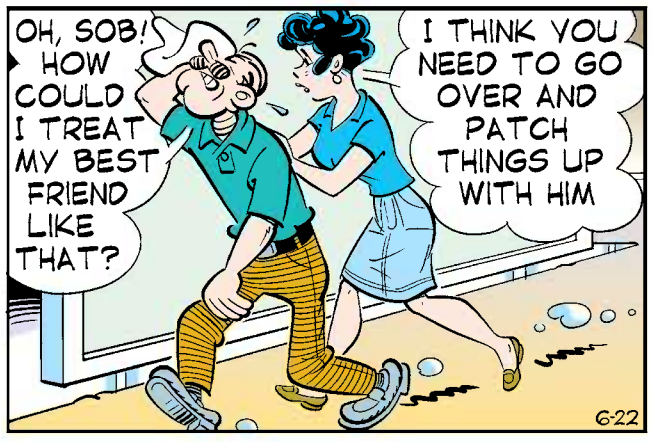





I FEEL LOUSY FOR CALLING DAGWOOD A MISER JUST BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T LEND ME A MEASLY $20
THAT'S A SHAME, DEAR, YOU TWO HAVE BEEN BEST PALS FOR ALL THESE YEARS!

www.blondie.com





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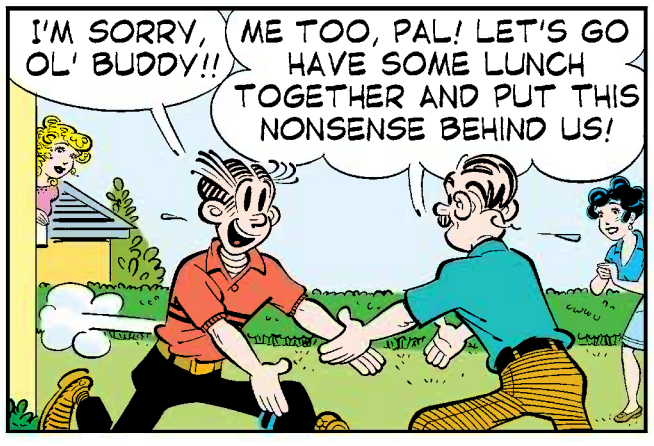
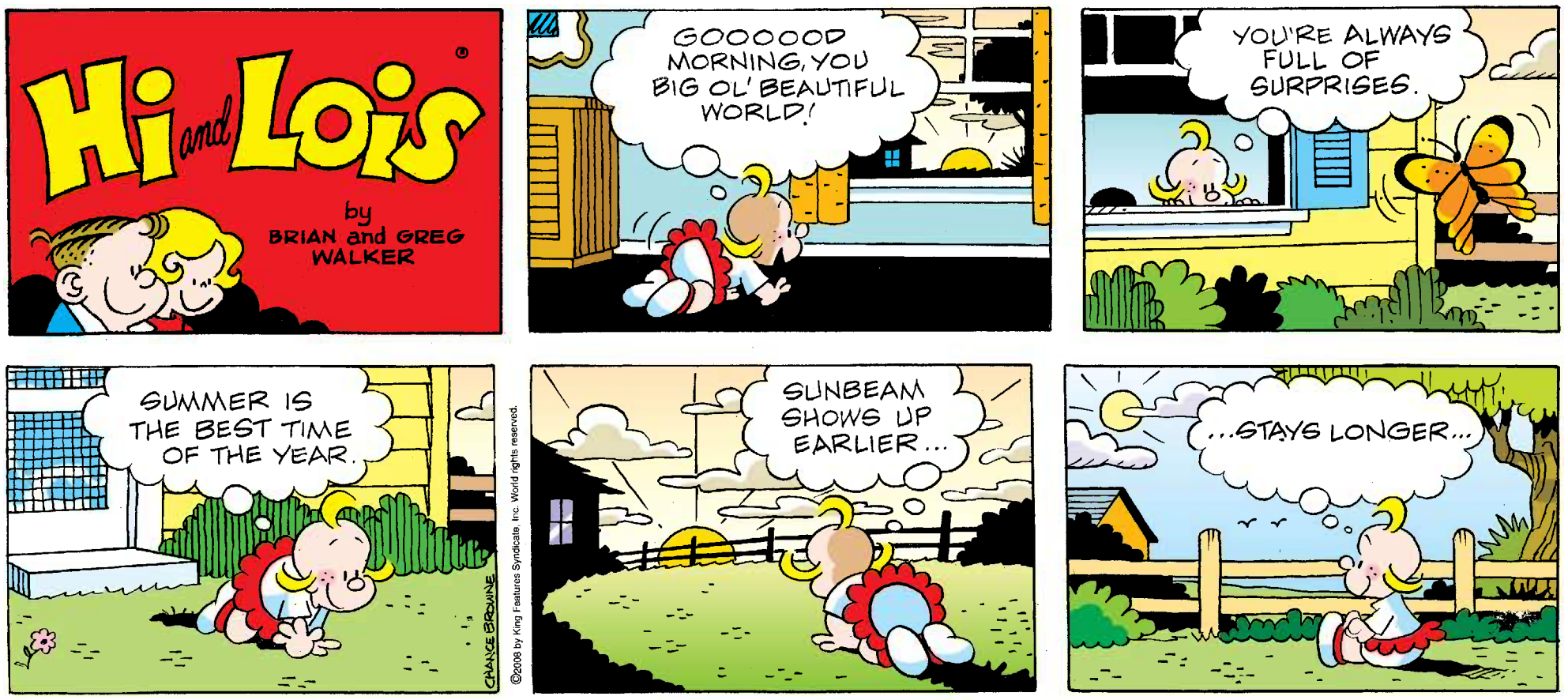
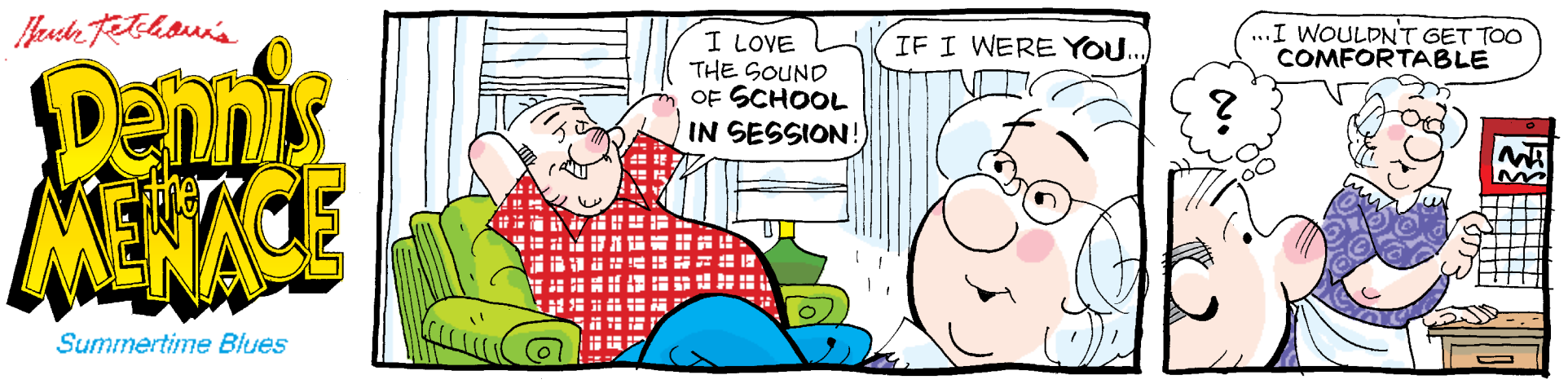
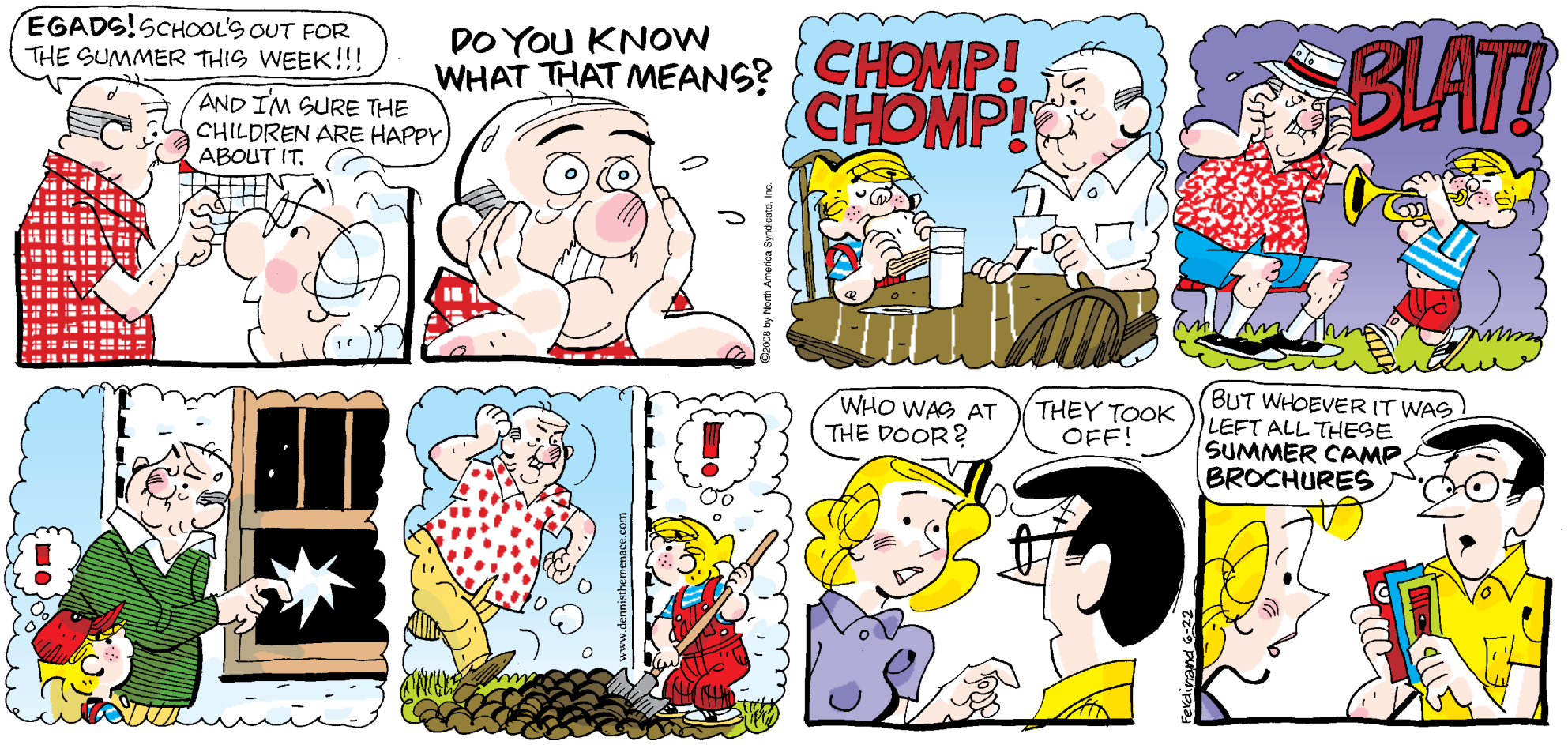
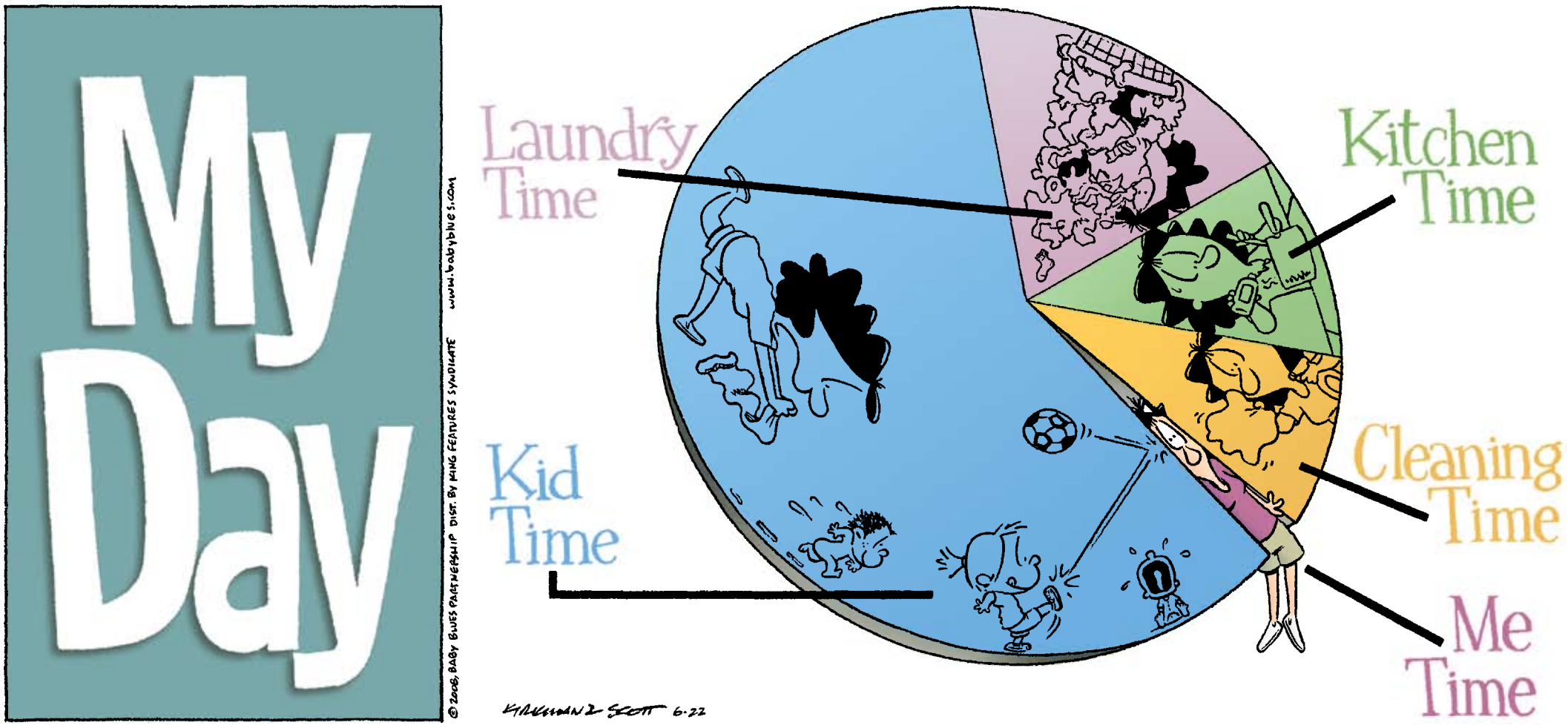



Hi and Lois
by
BRIAN and GREG WALKER
GOOOOOD MORNING, YOU BIG OL' BEAUTIFUL WORLD!
YOU'RE ALWAYS FULL OF SURPRISES.
SUMMER IS THE BEST TIME OF THE YEAR.
CHANCE BROWNE
©2008 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
SUNBEAM SHOWS UP EARLIER...
...STAYS LONGER...
...AND IS WARMER AND BRIGHTER.
PLUS, BASKING UNDER A TREE IS WAY COOLER THAN HUDDLING BEHIND A WINDOW.
6-22


Hank Ketcham's
Dennis the MENACE
Summertime Blues
I LOVE THE SOUND OF SCHOOL IN SESSION!
IF I WERE YOU...
...I WOULDN'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE
?


EGADS! SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE SUMMER THIS WEEK!!!
AND I'M SURE THE CHILDREN ARE HAPPY ABOUT IT.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
©2008 by North America Syndicate, Inc.
CHOMP! CHOMP!
BLAT!
WHO WAS AT THE DOOR?
THEY TOOK OFF!
BUT WHOEVER IT WAS LEFT ALL THESE SUMMER CAMP BROCHURES
www.dennisthemenace.com
Fekkinand 6-22



Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your creative side is enhanced by indulging yourself in as much artistic inspiration (music, art, dance, etc.) as you can fit into your schedule. Take someone special with you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Take a little restorative time out of your busy life. Go somewhere quiet this weekend. Or just close the door, turn on the answering machine and pretend you're away.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your advice might be much in demand by family and friends this week. But reserve time for yourself to investigate a project that could have some unexpected potential.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Work-related issues demand your attention in the early part of the week. Family matters dominate Thursday and Friday. But the weekend is yours to spend as you please.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Try to keep your temper in check as you deal with someone who seems to enjoy showing disrespect. Losing your Leonine cool might be just what the goader hopes to see.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A heated confrontation needs some cool-off time before it boils over. Better to step away than to try to win an argument where emotions overrule the facts.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Someone very special in your life finally sends that reassuring message you've been hoping for. You can now devote more time to the tasks you had put aside.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Job pressures begin to ease by the week's end, leaving you time to relax and restore your energy levels before you face next week's emerging challenges.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your spiritual strength helps calm a friend who might be facing an unsettling change in his or her life. An offer to help comes from a surprising source.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) By midweek you could learn some surprising facts about an associate that might cause you to reconsider a long-held view about someone in your past.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) One of those rare-for-you darker moods sets in in the early part of the week. But by Thursday, the clouds lift and you're back doing nice things for people in need.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Use that sharp Piscean perceptiveness to reel in more information about a promising offer so that you have the facts to back up whatever decision you make.

BORN THIS WEEK: Although you prefer the status quo, you easily can adapt to change when it's called for.

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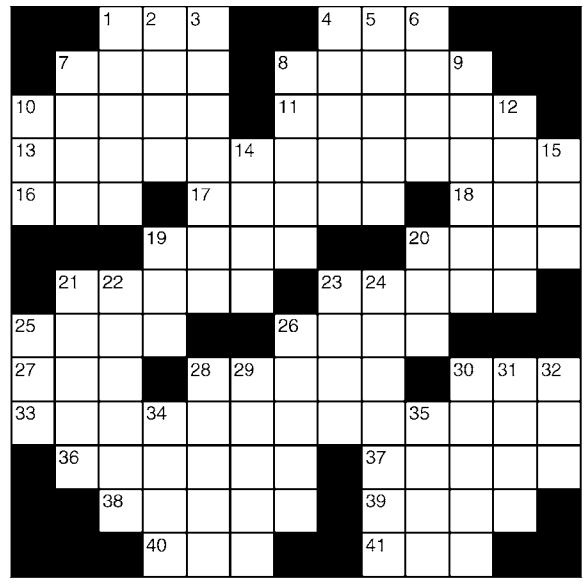
King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Height of fashion?
4 Wield a needle
7 Antitoxins
8 Melodies
10 Slip-on garment
11 "Sleepy Hollow" storyteller
13 Definitively
16 - out a living
17 Resembling
18 Stipend
19 Unable to hold any more
20 Undressed
21 Fisherman's basket
23 Hosiery shade
25 Lotion additive
26 "Dragnet" star
27 "Terrif!"
28 Garlic mayonnaise
30 Comic Leno
33 Bit of folklore
36 Caught
37 Land of the Rising Sun
38 Covered in dirt
39 Tarzan's clique
40 "Of course"
41 Homer Simpson's neighbor

DOWN
1 Therefore
2 Canal zone
3 Rhesus monkey
4 Cruises the Net
5 Ballad conclusion
6 Dam
7 Foundered
8 Re ocean motion
9 Grab suddenly
10 Pirouette pivot
12 Open area in a forest
14 Invalid
15 Caustic solution
19 Retainer
20 Gist
21 Talons
22 Getting dressed (in)
23 He got the point across to his son
24 Côte d'Ivoire city
25 Fore and -
26 "Toy Story" cowboy
28 Lofty home
29 Express-lane tally
30 Made fun of
31 "Sad to say, ..."
32 Longing
34 Grant or Elwes
35 Recording

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top ten

Smells Predicting Alzheimer's*

1. Leather
2. Clove
3. Soap
4. Lilac
5. Smoke
6. Menthol
7. Strawberry
8. Pineapple
9. Natural gas
10. Lemon

*Unable to identify

Source: www.cumc.columbia.edu

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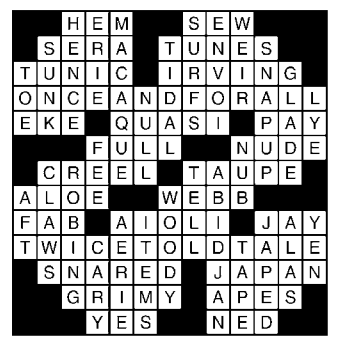
KING CROSSWORD LAST SUNDAY'S ANSWERS



United States

Obama raises $22M in May; Clinton in debt

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democrat Barack Obama raised $22 million in May for his presidential campaign, his weakest fundraising month this year, and ended the month with $43 million cash on hand, while former rival Hillary Rodham Clinton sank deeper in debt.

Obama, who has been the fundraising leader throughout the presidential contest, entered June on virtually the same financial footing as Republican rival John McCain - a level of parity that would have been unimaginable just a few months ago.

Details of the candidates' May fundraising, filed Friday in reports to the Federal Election Commission, came a day after Obama announced he would become the first major party candidate to forgo public financing in the general election. McCain has said he will accept the public funds, which will limit him to spending about $85 million from September until Election Day in November.

McCain raised $21 million in May and ended the month with $31.6 million in the bank. Of Obama's cash on hand, $10 million is available only for the general election, leaving him with about $33 million to use between now and the party conventions in late summer. Obama reported debts of $304,000; McCain had debts of $1.3 million.

Obama's decision to forgo public funds permits him to use leftover primary money in the general election. McCain cannot.

Clinton, who bowed out of the Democratic contest on June 7, reported a $22.5 million debt at the end of May, more than half of which came from personal loans to her presidential campaign. The former first lady lent her campaign nearly $2.2 million during the month, bringing her total personal investment in the campaign to $12.175 million. She had $3.4 million cash on hand left for primary spending. She also had more than $23 million for the general election, money her campaign cannot use to pay off her debts.

Clinton campaigned actively through the last Democratic primaries on June 3 before succumbing to Obama and is expected to have even greater debt at the end of this month. In a call to donors on Thursday, she said she would concentrate on paying off money owed to vendors, not her personal loans.

Flooding strands 100-plus barges on the Mississippi

WINFIELD, Mo. (AP)—The flooding in the Midwest has brought freight traffic on the upper Mississippi to a standstill, stranding more than 100 barges loaded with grain, cement, scrap metal, fertilizer and other products while shippers wait for the water to drop on the Big Muddy.

"We're basically experiencing total shutdown," said Larry Daily, president of Alter Barge Line Inc. of Bettendorf, Iowa.

While the bottleneck is costing him and other barge operators tens of thousands of dollars in lost revenue per day, June is a slow shipping period on the river compared with the late-summer harvest, the shutdown is expected to last only a few weeks, and it involves primarily non-perishable goods. So no major damage to the economy is expected.

Among the freight being held up: corn and soybeans headed downstream for New Orleans, where grain is loaded onto ships for export. Construction supplies and petroleum products headed upstream on the Mississippi are not getting through either.

Because of the high water, the Army Corps of Engineers has closed 13 locks along the upper Mississippi since June 12. As of Friday, nine locks remained closed, a roughly 215-mile stretch between Illinois City, Ill., and Winfield, Mo., northwest of St. Louis.

The situation along the Mississippi in Missouri was improving Friday as government forecasters predicted crests sharply below 1993's record levels. Several communities up and down the Mississippi were still under inundated, however, including Lincoln County, Mo., where 300 to 350 homes were flooded after the water flowed over or through the levees.

AP

Doug Smith and Debbie Hall put a protective cover over the sand bag levee being built around the town of in Hamburg, Ill. Friday, June 20, 2008 in an attempt to keep flood waters from the Mississippi River from claiming more homes.

Mass. girls may have made pact to get pregnant

GLOUCESTER, Mass. (AP)—The girls showed up repeatedly at the high school health clinic, asking for pregnancy tests. But their reactions to the test results were puzzling: high-fives if they were expecting, long faces if they weren't.

School officials in this hard-luck New England fishing town say an alarming 17 girls—four times the usual number—became pregnant this year. And even more disturbing: Some of the girls may have made a pact to have babies and raise them together.

"A typical girl you would think would say, 'Oh my God! What am I going to do now? How am I going to support this baby? How am I going to finish school?'" Superintendent Christopher Farmer said. "These young women clearly have not seen that."

The story exploded after Joseph Sullivan, the principal of Gloucester High School, was quoted by Time magazine this week as saying the girls confessed to making such a pact. Sullivan was on vacation Friday and did not return calls for comment.

The superintendent said he had no independent confirmation of a pact. But he added: "What we do know is there was a group of students being tested for pregnancy on a regular basis, which would suggest they were not taking steps to avoid becoming pregnant, and that when some of them had their babies, they appeared to be very pleased."

ACROSS THE NATION

At least 12 hurt as cars plow into 2 NYC crowds

NEW YORK (AP)—At least a dozen people are hurt after vehicles veered onto sidewalks in two accidents in bustling Manhattan neighborhoods. Authorities say a 60-year-old driver was pulling out of a Chinatown parking spot Friday when he accidentally hit the accelerator instead of the brakes. His car mounted the curb and hit people sitting on a bench and walking on the sidewalk. Two victims are hospitalized in serious but stable condition. Five others were treated for less serious injuries. The driver isn't expected to face criminal charges. Police say another vehicle hit five or six people and a building later Friday in the Garment District. They say the crash inflicted minor injuries.

Ark. woman charged with running over her own mom

HOT SPRINGS, Ark. (AP)—A woman with a blood-alcohol level more than three times the legal limit for driving backed over her mother and left the scene even though loved ones yelled, "You killed grandma," police said. Lisa Ann Casteel, 40, was charged with negligent homicide and driving while intoxicated. She was booked Wednesday in the May 17 accident and released on $3,000 bond. Sheriff's deputies were told by witnesses that Casteel backed over her mother, Mary Jane Donn, 56, as Donn sat in a plastic chair in the driveway of a home where relatives had gathered, according to an arrest affidavit. Casteel's sister, Michelle, told the deputies that Casteel thought her Chevrolet Blazer was in drive, not reverse, according to the affidavit.

Hagel says he'd consider VP offer from Obama

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel said Friday he would consider serving as Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama's running mate if asked, but he doesn't expect to be on any ticket. Hagel's vocal criticism of the Bush administration since the 2003 invasion of Iraq has touched off speculation that if Obama were to pick a Republican running mate, it might be Hagel. Hagel said in an interview with The Associated Press that after devoting much of his life to his country—in the Senate and the U.S. Army—he would have to consider any offer.

SC inmate who killed 2 executed by electric chair

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—A South Carolina man convicted of killing his ex-girlfriend's parents 14 years ago was executed in the state's electric chair Friday night after a last-ditch effort to halt the sentence was denied by the U.S. Supreme Court. James Earl Reed was pronounced dead at 11:27 p.m. Friday in the state's death chamber in Columbia. Reed, 49, was the first person executed by electric chair in the U.S. in nearly a year and South Carolina's first since 2004. He had been on death row since 1996, after being convicted of murdering Joseph and Barbara Lafayette in their Charleston County home two years earlier.

Ohio board votes to ax teacher accused of branding

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—The school board of a small central Ohio community voted unanimously Friday to fire a teacher accused of preaching his Christian beliefs despite staff complaints and using a device to burn the image of a cross on students' arms. School board members voted 5-0 to fire Mount Vernon Middle School science teacher John Freshwater. Board attorney David Millstone said Freshwater is entitled to a hearing to challenge the dismissal. Freshwater denies wrongdoing and will request such a hearing.

Bureaucracy failed abused boy, 5

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The little boy's body was a study in pain. He was covered in cigarette burns, including to his genitals. He couldn't fully open his hand because it had been burned on a stove. His tooth was broken with a nerve exposed. And he had been made to sit in his own urine and feces, authorities say.

As the 5-year-old remains hospitalized by kidney failure brought on from malnutrition, two county supervisors are blaming welfare and law enforcement agencies for missing earlier chances to rescue the child from what police say were months of "unbearable psychological and physical abuse."

The case came to light after a woman called a hotline June 4, saying the boy told her at a commuter train station that his mother had burned his hand on top of a stove.

Summoned to a county Department of Children and Family Services office, authorities say Starkeisha Brown brought her baby sitter's healthy 4-year-old son and daughter and tried to pass them off as her own.

Brown and her girlfriend ran from the office when a social worker questioned whether the child was really Brown's, authorities say. The boy was found nearby, after someone called 911 to report that a sick child with bruises had been left with a homeless person.

The child was taken to a hospital with a round belly common in cases of severe malnutrition. Police were shocked by injuries that showed the abuse was horrific and prolonged.

"I've never seen anyone with these kinds of injuries who has lived," Assistant Police Chief James McDonnell told reporters last week. "This kid must have a tremendous will to live, to be able to still hang on despite what he's been through."

Asia

Afghan villagers return to grim aftermath of battles

MANARA, Afghanistan (AP)—Corpses lay stinking in the shade of mulberry trees and in the ruins of a collapsed storehouse. Villagers rushed home to see if their livestock had died in the heat. Afghan soldiers placed red signs warning of bombs planted alongside the road.

With the battle in Arghandab valley apparently over, grim signs remained Friday of the fight government and NATO troops waged against Taliban militants who had crept within range of Afghanistan's second-largest city.

The grinding violence that has plagued the country for much of the past three decades persisted elsewhere Friday, with suicide attacks and a roadside bomb killing five civilians and two members of the U.S.-led coalition.

The advance of up to 400 militants on Arghandab early this week raised particular alarm, because it is considered a potential springboard for attacks on Kandahar, the Taliban's capital until U.S. bombs drove the Islamic militia from power in late 2001.

Hundreds of government and NATO troops launched their counter-strike Wednesday, and two days later the provincial governor escorted reporters through army checkpoints on the 10-mile route from Kandahar to witness the aftermath.

Olympic flame visit isolated Tibet

LHASA, China (AP)—The Olympic flame traveled to Tibet's isolated capital Friday, and an official announced that additional sentences have been handed down following anti-government riots that rocked the city three months ago.

The torch relay, which was disrupted during its international stops by anti-China protests—including Beijing's policies in Tibet—was scheduled to kick off in Lhasa at 9 a.m. Saturday (9 p.m. EDT Friday).

The 6.8-mile run is scheduled to begin at Norbulingka, the Dalai Lama's former summer palace, and end at the hilltop Potala Palace, the traditional seat of Tibetan rulers, the state-run China Daily newspaper reported. Tight security was expected in light of anti-government rioting on March 14 in Lhasa and subsequent protests throughout Tibetan-inhabited regions of western China.

Thailand protesters besiege govt complex

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Several thousand protesters besieged Thailand's seat of government Friday, delivering fiery anti-government speeches and singing nationalistic songs as they vowed to stay until the prime minister resigns.

After initially scuffling with the demonstrators, the police offered little resistance as crowds surged toward and pressed up against a fence on two sides of the Government House, a compound of ornate buildings from the 1920s.

The protesters, spearheaded by the People's Alliance for Democracy, claim that Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's government is a proxy for former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 military coup.

MISS UNIVERSE WANNABES AP

In this image released by Miss Universe L.P., LLLP, Miss Australia 2008 Laura Dundovic, left, Miss Germany 2008 Madina Taher, Miss Philippines 2008 Jennifer Barrientos, right, pose poolside at a hotel in Ho Chi Minh City on Friday, June 20, 2008. They will compete in the 57th annual Miss Universe competition which will take place in Nha Trang, Vietnam at the Crown Convention Center on July 14, at 8 a.m. UCT and in the United States on July 13, 2008 at 9 p.m. EDT.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Japan quake death toll rises to 12

TOKYO (AP)—Police say rescue workers have recovered another body from a landslide triggered by a powerful earthquake in northern Japan, bringing the confirmed death toll to 12. Police spokesman Naoshi Tokunaga says body is the third pulled from a hillside construction site that collapsed during last Saturday's magnitude 7.2 quake, burying 15 workers in hardest-hit Miyagi prefecture (state). Twelve of the workers were able to pull themselves out, but three others were killed. A dozen people have now been confirmed dead from the earthquake, with 10 others still missing and more than 300 injured.

Beijing sets restrictions on cars during Olympics

BEIJING (AP)—Half of Beijing's 3.3 million vehicles will be pulled off the roads during the Olympics to help clean the city's noxious air for the games. The auto ban is part of an anti-pollution plan that also will halt construction and heavy industry during the Olympics, which begin in seven weeks. Under the plan announced Friday, vehicles will be allowed on the roads on alternate days—according to even or odd car registration numbers—from July 20 until Sept. 20. In addition, 300,000 heavy polluting vehicles—aging industrial trucks, many of which operate only at night—will be banned from July 1.

UN issues urgent plea for Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—The United Nations warned Friday that it will be forced to ground helicopters that have been ferrying critical aid to Myanmar's cyclone survivors unless the international community urgently provides more funding. The U.N.'s World Food Program said it was facing a critical shortage of funds for its logistical operation in the country, including 10 helicopters that have so far delivered lifesaving materials to 60 locations in the devastated Irrawaddy delta. The use of helicopters, trucks and boats will "grind to a halt by the end of this month unless we get additional funding now," Chris Kaye, WFP's country director in Myanmar, said in a statement.

World

EU endorses new security rules

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)—European Union leaders want their nations to fingerprint all foreign visitors and take other new steps to keep out illegal immigrants as part of a sweeping security overhaul proposed Friday.

The measures are similar to those already in place in the United States, and have prompted concerns about privacy and the rights of those seeking refugee status in the EU. But EU leaders suggested security is paramount.

At a summit, they said crafting a common border and immigration policy for Europe by 2010 "is a key priority for citizens" and pushed efforts to reach agreement to the top of their political agenda.

In a declaration Friday, the EU leaders ordered their governments to draft legislation on tougher new border security measures to ease the way toward a more seamless immigration and asylum policy.

These would include fingerprinting and screening for all visitors who cross the bloc's borders and using a satellite system to keep out illegal immigrants.

The screening would apply to everyone: Those who need a visa to enter EU nations, such as visitors from most African nations, as well as those who do not, such as U.S. citizens.

Foreign tourists on Paris' Champs-Elysees seemed to shrug off the proposed measures as part of the new world security landscape.

"I'm all right with fingerprinting, since I suppose it will enhance safety," said Gary Gordon, an attorney from Lansing, Mich.

Florida teacher Bridget Schmidt said she had "no problem" with fingerprinting, but added, "I don't feel any safer in the United States because they fingerprint people."

Probe halts rebuilding of Iraqi city

FALLUJAH, Iraq (AP)—U.S.-funded reconstruction in a one-time Sunni insurgent stronghold has been suspended because of a corruption probe, including allegations that the mayor and police chief were involved in a multimillion-dollar oil smuggling ring, The Associated Press has learned.

The problems in Hit, a dusty, ramshackle western town along the Euphrates River, provide a glimpse of the challenges in rebuilding a country where years of war and misrule have destroyed the social fabric.

Reconstruction is a key part of the U.S. military strategy against both Sunni and Shiite extremists, but many projects have long been dogged by mismanagement and allegations of corruption.

The U.S. government suspended its efforts in Hit this month after the police chief, Col. Salah Rasheed al-Gaoud, was fired for his alleged role in the scheme, U.S. and Iraqi officials familiar with the investigation told the AP.

Officials also confirmed that the mayor, Hikmat Jubair al-Gaoud, was under investigation. Marine Lt. Col. Chris Hughes, a spokesman for U.S. forces in Anbar province, said the mayor's current whereabouts were unknown and that it was unclear whether he fled the country.

But a man identifying himself as the mayor told the AP when contacted on al-Gaoud's mobile phone that he was still in Hit and "still in my job as the mayor."

"There is a committee that it is investigating the case of stealing oil and its work has not finished yet," he said Thursday.

Among the reconstruction projects that have been suspended are repairs to the town's dilapidated infrastructure, including street repairs, sewerage upgrade and school construction.

Austria accused of shielding Nazi suspect

VIENNA, Austria (AP)—Milivoj Asner caused a stir just by showing up at a soccer game: The frail 95-year-old is ranked No. 4 on a leading list of most-wanted Nazi war crimes suspects.

Now Austria's most notorious far-right politician, former Freedom Party leader Joerg Haider, has touched off an even bigger scandal by praising Asner as a "treasured" neighbor who should be allowed to live out his days in peace.

"This could only happen in Austria," Efraim Zuroff, chief Nazi hunter for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, told The Associated Press.

Officials in southern Austria, where Asner lives openly despite being indicted for crimes against humanity in his native Croatia, contend the retired police chief is mentally unfit for questioning, extradition or trial.

But Asner's recent appearance at a "fan zone" near his home in the southern city of Klagenfurt—where he reportedly looked fit and lucid as he and his wife watched Croatia play in the European Championship—has some questioning whether this alpine country with a tortured World War II past is shielding him from justice.

Asner stands accused of persecuting hundreds of Jews, Serbs and Gypsies and dispatching them to their deaths in WWII-era Croatia, which was ruled by a Nazi puppet regime.

"Austria has the habit of closing its eyes," renowned Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld told French television Thursday. The Asner case, he said, is fresh proof the country is a safe haven for suspected war criminals.

AP

A Nov. 3, 2004 file photo of 95-year-old retired Croatian police chief Milivoj Asner, taken in Klagenfurt, Austria.

Belarusian president invites Pope

MINSK, Belarus (AP)—Belarus' authoritarian president invited Pope Benedict XVI to the mostly Orthodox former Soviet republic, the presidential press service said in a statement Friday.

Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko made the offer the same day he met with Vatican's No. 2 official, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who is in the country to preside at the weekend consecration of the first Catholic church to be built in the capital city, Minsk, since 1910.

The Orthodox church, which includes about 80 percent of the population, wields significant clout in Belarus through a 2003 agreement it signed with the government.

But the Vatican under Benedict has been pursuing a goal of outreach to the world's 250 million Orthodox Christians. A trip to Belarus by Benedict could move the Vatican and Russian Orthodox Church one step closer to a meeting—and the ultimate goal of healing the nearly 1,000-year schism between the two main branches of Christianity.

Focus

Born too soon: Can tiny fighters make it home?

By JAIME ARON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS (AP)—Seventeen weeks premature, our twin sons were so small, so fragile. And already they'd been through so much.

Josh had had heart surgery, Jake a life-threatening bowel operation—and that was just in their first week. They'd received blood transfusions, endured endless medical exams and procedures.

Both still had ventilation tubes down their throats, feeding tubes in their noses, IVs in their heads or arms and all sorts of monitors wired to their chests and feet.

Still, they'd cleared many hurdles since they were born—weighing 1 pound, 2 ounces each—the day before Mother's Day 2002. And now, five weeks and a day later, on Father's Day, we'd reached another milestone.

For the first time, my wife, Lori, and I were offered the chance to hold them.

Many times, we had watched enviously as other NICU parents got to do what's known as "kangaroo care," gently cradling their infants chest-to-chest. When our turn finally came, there was a catch: Only one of us could hold one of the babies. Lori deservedly got the honor.

It took three nurses to lift Jake and all his wires out of the incubator and to place him safely on Lori's chest. Scared of doing anything wrong, she cupped one hand under his feet, the other on his back, then hardly moved for more than an hour.

They say these sessions are therapeutic for the babies and, indeed, Jake's monitors showed he liked it. I think it's even more therapeutic for the parents.

As our tiny son slept, we cried tears of joy, whispering about this special moment we feared might never happen.

We even allowed ourselves another bit of imagining: The day we'd take our babies home.

■■■

After navigating those first frantic days and tense weeks, our concerns shifted—from whether the boys would take their next breath to how much longer they'd need the ventilator. We still called the NICU first thing each morning, but there was less fear as we dialed.

As optimistic as we were, we still had plenty to worry about.

The boys' eyes and ears had yet to be tested, and it would be months before the follow-up scan to make sure there wasn't any bleeding in their brains. Infection was a constant concern, especially when a NICU neighbor was attacked by a preemie's most dastardly devil: the lung virus known as RSV.

And there were terrifying surprises—like the time Josh was kangaroo-ing with Lori and something went wrong with his breathing tube.

Seeing trouble on the monitor, a nurse threw back the privacy screen, pulled Josh into his incubator and gave him mouth-to-mouth. Soon enough, he was stabilized and got a new breathing tube. Lori was shaken for weeks.

Through the highs and lows, the hospital staff became more than caregivers, even more than friends. "Like family" is the way most people describe it. To me, it was as if we were teammates—united by a mutual goal, each with a different role, anyone capable of being the star player.

We bonded like teammates, too, learning about each other's lives.

One nurse, Jan, loved talking about her son, Patrick, especially whenever one of our boys faced a problem he once had. You see, Patrick was a NICU baby, too—one who was abandoned, until Jan and her husband adopted him.

Another nurse, Kim, who spoke with a West Texas drawl, said she drove an hour each way to work, always listening to Don Williams' Greatest Hits. The same obsessiveness showed in her attachment to Jake and Josh, the smallest babies she'd ever cared for.

"They've been in my dreams several times," she said. "I had a bad dream about them when I was on vacation. I got up and called the NICU to make sure they were OK."

A similar bond sent Julie digging through her closet for the boys' first clothes, an outfit specially made for teeny NICU babies that she'd saved from another hospital where she'd worked. Debra copied the design, making Independence Day gear: tie-dyed red, white and blue outfits for the twins, with a matching shirt and socks for their brother, Zac.

■■■

Though Zac hasn't been mentioned much here, our 4-year-old's world was rattled, too.

We did our best to keep life normal for him, except for that first week, when he bounced between his cousins' homes.

We explained that his brothers were born, but were very sick. He wanted to see them, so we let him. He even brought gifts: A blue Beanie Baby for Jake, a red one for Josh, and a picture of himself to put in each incubator—or, as we told him they were, the rocket ships doctors use to help the boys grow big and strong.

Later, once Lori recovered and I returned to work, we developed a routine. She spent about four hours at the NICU during the day, then met Zac at home after school. We all had dinner together, then I'd put Zac to bed and go to the hospital.

We were allowed to bring Zac to the NICU once a week. Sometimes he wanted to come, sometimes he didn't. Whatever he picked was fine.

We also started a tradition of bedtime prayers, with Jake and Josh obviously coming first. After his next NICU visit, Zac asked if he could also pray for "all their doctors, nurses and friends."

We knew then he was going to be one heck of a big brother.

Another night, Zac gave me very specific orders before I left for the hospital.

"Tell them you love them," he instructed, "then tell them that I am at home."

■■■

Home. Waiting for them to arrive, waiting for our family to be united. As spring led to summer, we knew we were getting closer, step by developmental step.

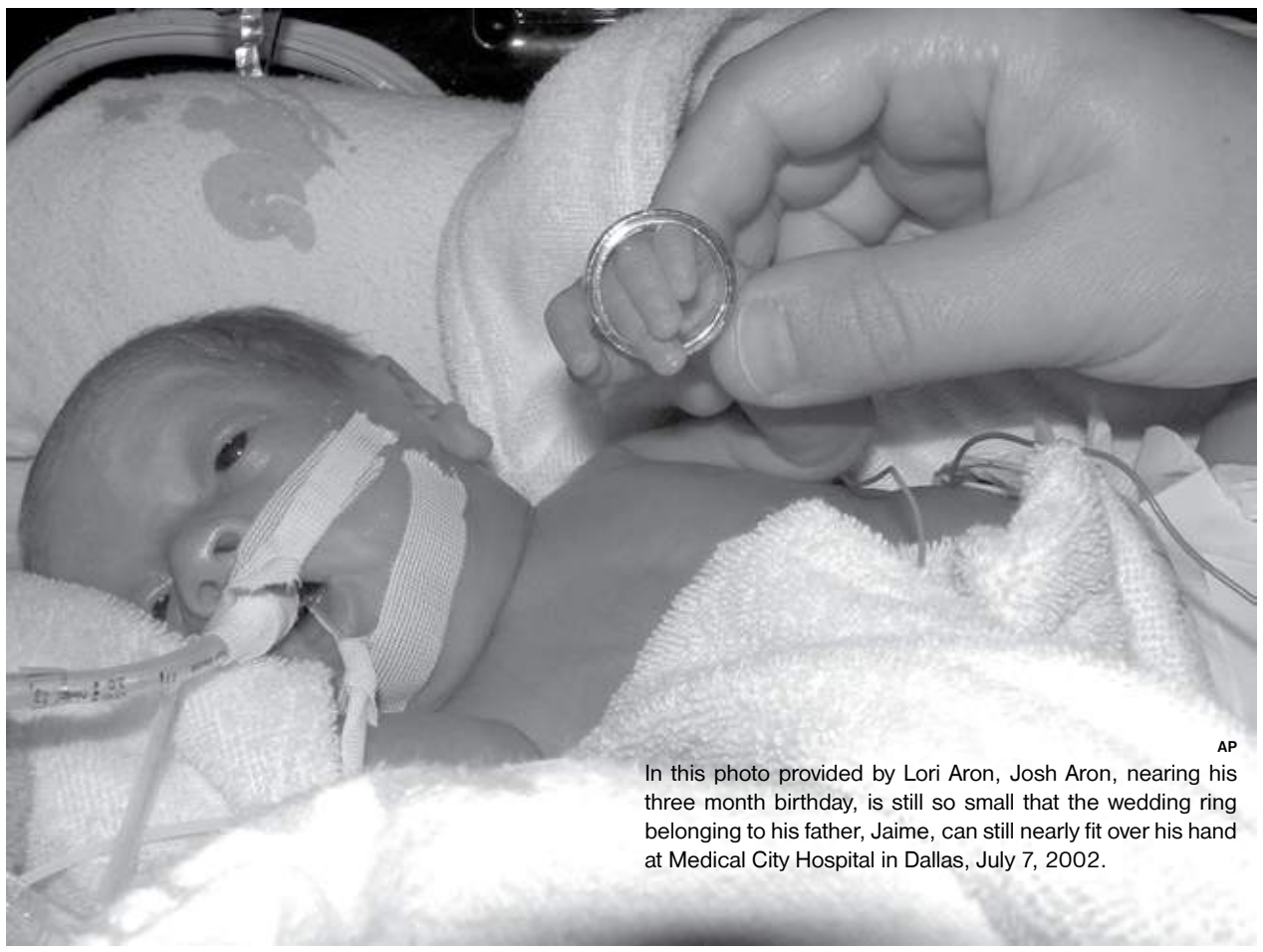
On Aug. 9, exactly three months after Lori's water broke, Jake and Josh moved into the same crib, putting them side-by-side for the first time since the womb.

Several weeks later, Zac came to the hospital for a visit and a party, the annual NICU Reunion, where there'd be a bounce house, face painting and all sorts of games for several hundred "NICU graduates" and their families.

En route from our boys to the party, I saw a family gathered around a nearby incubator, having some kind of religious ceremony. I didn't think much of it.

But when Zac and I returned, a white plastic flower was on the outer NICU door—the signal a baby had just died.

The joy of the party evaporated. When I realized there was no longer a crib where that family had been praying, it hit me—that ceremony was last rites.



AP

In this photo provided by Lori Aron, Josh Aron, nearing his three month birthday, is still so small that the wedding ring belonging to his father, Jaime, can still nearly fit over his hand at Medical City Hospital in Dallas, July 7, 2002.

So while we were playing, celebrating success stories and dreaming about being back next year as graduates ourselves, that family was turning off machines.

■■■

The day after Labor Day was the boys' due date, yet it was their 116th day in the NICU. Jake weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces; Josh was up to 6-4.

Later that week, Jake had a follow-up operation, reconnecting his bowel. Soon after, we rejoiced when both boys were breathing without the ventilator's help. Fran, a nurse we'd grown especially close to, celebrated by hugging us like a grandma who'd seen a baby take his first steps.

"All that's left," the doctor said, "is taking all their feedings from a bottle and maintaining or gaining weight."

How hard could that be? The boys had defied so many odds that we took for granted they would master the seemingly simple task of bottle feeding.

By early October, we knew something was seriously wrong.

Both boys cried when a bottle came anywhere near them. They almost always spit up, sometimes losing the whole meal. Jake even got into the habit of arching his back to resist.

Both had severe cases of acid reflux. They needed a procedure to tie the top of their stomachs, preventing them from throwing up. They'd also get a feeding tube inserted into their bellies so they could receive nourishment while battling their oral aversion. By the time all of this was completed, it was November.

And we were done. Finally. The surgeries signaled the finish line.

On his 199th day in the NICU, Jake was unplugged from all the monitors and placed in his carrier for the ride home. We closed out a multimillion-dollar hospital tab, luckily covered by our insurance.

It was Nov. 25, a few days before Thanksgiving. We knew how much we had to be thankful for.

Josh left the NICU a week later—in the middle of Hanukkah. It was the night we lit five candles, and we loved the symbolism: The five of us. Together. For the first time. Home.

■■■

We soon learned that life outside the hospital wasn't the end-all we had built it up to be.

Plenty of challenges lay ahead—a procedure to repair Josh's throat, likely damaged by a breathing tube; hundreds of hours of therapy to develop muscles and conquer eating problems; ordeals with the "buttons" where the feeding tubes attached. ER trips. Even a weeklong hospital stay because of the dreaded RSV.

Still, slowly but surely, there were fewer doctors' appointments.

And look at them now.

Jake is a budding musician, and Josh is becoming quite the artist. Their personalities are totally different—Jake's the extrovert, Josh the introvert—but both love video games, sports and messing with their big brother, typical 6-year-old stuff.

Yes, they turned 6 on Mother's Day.

Jake is 3 feet, 6 inches and 34 pounds, Josh 3 feet, 5 inches and 32 pounds. Jake has darker hair and skin, Josh more curls and fuller cheeks. Both have killer smiles.

While they can't grasp their story, we look forward to eventually explaining it all, letting them read the old e-mails, the responses and the journal I kept.

Zac is 10 and starting to understand everything his brothers went through. This past school year, he wrote several stories about their scary times.

We visit the NICU every year around the twins' birthday, delivering treats.

Sure, there are some lingering problems: Josh has asthma and a soft, raspy voice; Jake's permanent front teeth will never grow in. But that's it. Big deal.

Which inevitably makes us ask, why us? Why were Jake and Josh among the 1,201 multiples born so small in 2002 who made it instead of the 1,367 who didn't? Why did both boys not only survive, but thrive?

We don't know. We do know how much this journey has changed us.

There are big-picture things like a new faith in medicine and a strong faith in faith itself. We don't go to synagogue any more often than before, but you can't tell me all those prayers, and all that love directed toward these guys, didn't make a difference.

Another tightened bond is our marriage. By some accounts, that defies the odds, too.

I've come out of this with silver hairs around my temples, and fragile emotions, leaking tears at anything that tugs the heart strings.

Which brings us back to where I began, choked up during my speech at a March of Dimes event. I was trying to give an update on the boys, but couldn't.

Lori came up to console me. She wound up taking my place, picking up where I left off:

"By now, I'm sure you realize that we are the proud parents of miracle babies."

Life & Style

Hats and heels take the day at Ascot's Ladies Day

ASCOT, England (AP)—This was no time for sensible shoes. Or sensible anything, for that matter.

So Georgina Owen Rafferty decided to rise to Thursday's occasion—Ladies Day at the Royal Ascot race meeting—and have some Jimmy Choo high heels custom made to match her eye-blasting pink ensemble.

"They are incredibly comfortable," Rafferty said before striding into the Royal Enclosure to mingle with Queen Elizabeth II and other horse-mad dignitaries on a sparkling day with long spells of bright sunshine. "They were made by the man himself, from the couture side of the business, so they fit like slippers."

She was not the only one preening. In a world of casual Fridays, where dressing down has become a depressing fact of life, Ladies Day at Royal Ascot is the one day of the year when people who like to dress up can exact revenge on slackers who prefer track suits and leisure wear.

It's a day tailor-made for breaking rules. No one seemed shy about ordering their first chilled glass of Bollinger champagne at 10:55 in the morning, or about placing a bet on what color hat the queen would wear, or donning a top hat that spends the rest of the year in the closet.

When the gates opened precisely at 10:30 a.m., it started a parade of men in morning suits and top hats and women in pastel-colored dresses, the most spectacular and elaborate of hats, and heels normally seen on television shows like "Sex and the City"—not at racetracks.

AP

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip arrive by open carriage on the third day of the Royal Ascot horse racing meeting, traditionally known as Ladies Day in Ascot, England, Thursday, June, 19, 2008. The annual Royal Ascot horse race meeting spread over five days is one of the highlights of the English social season.

The queen, wearing a powder blue dress and matching hat, arrived in an open carriage shortly before racetime with her husband, Prince Philip, and other members of the royal family. She personally presented the trophies to the winner of the featured Gold Cup race.

The racetrack has a long royal connection, dating to 1711 when Queen Anne discovered the open heath near Windsor Palace and felt it might be a perfect spot for racing. The first recorded reference to Ladies Day was in 1823.

The day has evolved into a no holds barred battle for attention from the creme de la creme of British high society, those with the time and the money to spend months planning their outfits. Top designers were employed, and few seemed daunted by a Royal Ascot edict designed to limit the amount of flesh on display.

Responding to revealing fashions of recent years, race organizers—through notices picked up by the British media—asked women not to wear skirts that were too short, tops that were too skimpy, or fashions that exposed the tummy.

Spaghetti straps were definitely out—dress straps were expected to be at least one-inch wide.

While navel piercings, exposed tattoos and ankle bracelets were not addressed, there was a slightly tongue in cheek advisory that warned about fake tans and suggested that women wear outfits that covered their underwear, while men were told to make sure their zippers were done up to avoid a "schoolboy error" that might ruin their whole outfit.

The unusual fashion edicts were an attempt to keep the trend toward too-small tops, exposed bras and tiny skirts from migrating from the streets of London into the royal enclosure where the queen—a devoted fan of horse racing—entertains each year.

There were a few low cut dresses despite the edicts. And the queen's 18-year-old granddaughter Princess Eugenie arrived in a royal carriage wearing a moderately revealing black dress.

Hadley Freeman, deputy fashion editor of The Guardian newspaper, said race organizers were trying to prevent Royal Ascot from turning into "Ibiza by the racetrack." She was referring to the Spanish holiday island of Ibiza, where anything—or nothing—goes during the hot summer months.

"It's quite sweet," she said. "Ascot is trying to present an image of old England that doesn't exist any more, not in a country where 'Big Brother' is so popular. They have the idea that showing shoulder flesh would be unbelievably risque, something only Americans would do."

AP

A racegoer wears an ornate hat on the third day of the Royal Ascot horse racing meeting, traditionally known as Ladies Day in Ascot, England, Thursday, June, 19, 2008.

Most racegoers seemed to welcome the new dress code and the fashion police who enforced it with a subtle but firm hand.

"I think it's a really good idea," said Sarah Prowse, who wore a slightly low-cut dress that was not too revealing. "I think you should dress up and be elegant and not show too much. No cleavage or tummy, skirt not too short, don't show too much flesh. It's really nice to be ladylike."

She said there was "a time and a place" for more risque fashions but that Royal Ascot wasn't one of them.

"I love seeing what everyone is wearing," Prowse said, admitting that her elaborate pink hat came from Marks & Spencer, England's middle-of-the-road department store, not Philip Treacy, Britain's high-priced milliner-to-the-stars.

But the unofficial prize for hat of the day—at least in terms of altitude achieved—went to a creation by David Shilling, who designed an asymmetrical globe-shaped pink hat that rose nearly 3 feet above the head of Mrs. Edward Claridge, a regular at Ladies Day for a quarter-century.

"I love the ambiance of Royal Ascot," she said. "It's typically English. For us, this is the best week of the year."

THREE WISE GUYS

Neighbor etiquette, men's shorts, team colors

By JOE HEIM, JUSTIN RUDE and DAN ZAK

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Dear Wise Guys:

Friends of ours participate in an annual pig roast. The event is quite large and involves roasting a pig on a spit for almost 24 hours. Tradition dictates that the pig's severed head be proudly (and prominently) displayed on a spear in the host's front yard.

It is our friends' turn to host the roast. Here is the dilemma: Their next-door neighbors are vegetarian and own a beloved pet pig. Our friends are worried that the pig head will offend them. How can our friends best break the news to their neighbors?

Not displaying the pig head is not a viable option. If others at the roast get an inkling that the pig head is of issue, they will surely (in their impishly inebriated state) make an even bigger issue of it.—Trying Not to Be Boarish in Virginia

Joe: What about disguising the pig head as Marie Antoinette and telling your neighbors you're having an early Bastille Day party? The rest of the guests will simply think it's some sort of Miss Piggy joke, and no one will be the wiser. It's a win-win ... except for the pig.

Justin: Between the rigorous demands of tradition and the assured antics of drunken guests, it seems that compromise and consideration are going right out the window. If these are hard realities, then your friends must come to terms with the fact that they are choosing to be fun friends at the expense of being considerate neighbors. It's best that they inform the neighbors of the tradition early and in person. They also should understand that the best they can hope for is to be appreciated for the warning. (Offended sensibilities won't be assuaged by sweet talk.)

Of course, the really offensive thing is that your tradition keeps some truly choice bites (like the ears and cheeks) well away from your hungry guests. Moving the head back to the serving table would be a winning solution for everyone.

■■■

Dear Wise Guys:

My question is about where to buy shorts for men. And by "shorts" I mean SHORTS. They need to expose about half the thigh. Walk into any men's apparel store and all you see are garments reaching the knees or below. As if the summers aren't getting warmer every year. What's the matter with fashion designers? Haven't they heard about global warming?

In search of shorts, I've even tried kids' departments, hoping to find a pair for larger kids that will fit my waist size, but even those are waaay too long.—GK

Joe: Yeah, and while we're at it, let's bring back mullets, mock turtlenecks, Sansabelt pants and satin dress shirts. Along with these other style disasters, shorter shorts make the wearer look ridiculous and make the rest of us uncomfortable. Unless you're a tennis player (or European), your campaign to reintroduce them is inexcusable. Oh, and stay out of the kids' departments.

Justin: Actually, Joe, it's a law of men's fashion that short shorts are considered fashionable only if you are rocking a killer 'stache.

Joe: That explains the magical appeal of Officer Dangle from "Reno 911!"

Dan: Jim Dangle once tried to pick me up on the street in Georgetown. His thighs are sensational.

Joe: You can watch a video of Dan with the lieutenant at www.washingtonpost.com/wiseguys.

■■■

Dear Wise Guys:

Why don't NFL teams keep their team colors for life? I didn't like it when my Buffalo Bills changed from bright blue to dark blue. They suddenly looked like the Patriots (in terms of uniform, if not play). I've noticed lots of other teams changing their colors as well. What about tradition or even branding? Why change a color that people associate with your team?—Christine

Dan: The current uniform for the (our) Buffalo Bills is unfortunate, but at least it's not as bad as the Buffalo Sabres' uniform, which is an atrocity. (What is that logo supposed to be? A lunging hamster?)

Teams change their uniform colors and designs to sell jerseys. If there's a new look, you'll have new sales as people refashion their fandom. At least the Bills stayed in the same color palette (from royal blue to navy), instead of veering wildly like the Sabres, whose logos have gone from the iconic blue-and-gold swords to the ugly red-and-black buffalo head and back to blue and gold and the aforementioned lunging hamster. Now I'm in a foul mood.

Joe: Speaking of foul, the green hats the Washington Nationals wore last week were particularly ugly. I know they were for a worthwhile environmental cause, but I'd rather have global warming than see those caps again.

Still, at least they weren't wearing shorts.

Have a question only the Three Wise Guys can answer? Send it to wiseguys@washpost.com and await their words of wise-dom.

Carell makes the 'Smart' move

By John Anderson
SPECIAL TO NEWSDAY

HOLLYWOOD–It's no mystery: The casting of Steve Carell as Maxwell Smart pulled together all the dangling threads of the long-awaited "Get Smart," Warner Bros.' not-quite-a-remake of the '60s TV spy comedy, which opens Friday.

"I turned the project down several times over the years," said director Peter Segal. "Even though I was a fan of the show, I didn't feel the pieces were coming together, and it was too beloved a series to mess with, unless those pieces were just right.

"But one day they come to me and say, `Steve Carell's on board to play Max.' And I said, 'Hmmm ...'"

Carell seems almost too obvious a choice to re-create the bumbling, oblivious CONTROL agent whose ability to foil villains was as inexplicable as Agent 99's attraction to him.

But as revisited by Carell, the new Maxwell Smart has a lot less in common with the old Smart than the old Smart does with the socially hopeless Michael Scott, Carell's insufferable character on NBC's "The Office." Or that the latter two have in common with "The Pink Panther's" resident idiot, Inspector Clouseau.

"It's Asperger's syndrome," Carell said during a sit-down in Beverly Hills. "An inability to read people's faces and an inability to understand how people are receiving you based on their facial expressions. There's a disconnect there. I think there might be a tinge of that in Michael Scott." And in the original Maxwell Smart, who as played by Don Adams was as oblivious to insult and social convention as a goldfish is to a rainstorm.

Carell's Max is a sensitive Smart who, in the creation-myth concocted by screenwriters Tom J. Astle and Matt Ember, desperately wants to move out of his job as an analyst for the CIA-ish CONTROL and into field work as a gunslinging, shoe-phoning agent. He is an unlikely hero, but his need is real.

"I wanted the character to be somebody who's very earnest, eager, maybe overeager," Carell said, "and a guy who's finally doing what he always wanted to do.

"If you've been preparing your whole life to do something and you finally get a chance to do it, you have a sense of joy, even if it's being shot at and chasing down the bad guys. He's not a bumbling idiot; he's not Clouseau. He's a proficient guy, but a bit counterintuitive. And a bit overeager. But he has a good heart, even if he maybe takes himself a little seriously."

Taking himself seriously—very seriously—is something Carell's been feigning since "The Daily Show," his deadpan characters generally finding themselves in a position of embarrassing hilarity. In "The 40-Year-Old Virgin," he had to run a gauntlet of humiliation, beginning with the title. In "Evan Almighty," he was embarrassed by God. In "The Office," his appalling Michael Scott should be in a state of constant mortification, but he's too ga-ga to know any better.

But with "Get Smart" they went a different way. "People who are huge fans of the show—and believe me, there are many—they're very protective," Segal said. "The way comic book fans are of their comics and theater geeks are of their plays. Nobody wants to see Hollywood screw it up."

He and Carell discussed how they each saw the latest big-screen workup (which follows 1980's aptly titled "The Nude Bomb," which starred Adams as Smart, and "Get Smart, Again," a 1989 reunion TV movie).

"I had done `Naked Gun 33 1/3,' which was an homage to `Get Smart,' " Segal said. "And Steve had done a pilot with ("Airplane!" producer) David Zucker and neither of us wanted to do something we'd already done. He said, `Why don't we do a comedic "Bourne"?' I said, 'Now we're onto something.' "

"I'm not doing Don Adams," Carell said. "I'm not doing an impersonation. I felt there was no reason to do a knockoff of his character because ... he did it fantastically well."

He was faced with the same dilemma, he said, when "The Office" was transplanted from the U.K. to America. "I watched Ricky Gervais," he said, "and I thought, `There's no way I can do that. I won't be as good or anywhere near as good as him in that character, so I won't play that exact character. I'll play a version of that character. I'll try to take some of the essence of that character and use that.'

"I knew there was no way I would live up to Don Adams' version of the character," Carell said, "so I didn't even attempt that. I honestly don't think that's what people want to see, either. If you just do an impression of somebody, that's all it is. It's a clever impression and it doesn't live. His version did. But an impersonation of his version isn't a living, breathing thing. So I figured if I could tap into what made that character so funny and reinterpret it, I'd be better off."

The resulting Maxwell Smart seems to be a character far easier to relate to, by audiences as well as his portrayer. As Carell says, "If you don't know a Michael Scott, you are Michael Scott." But the joy about Max, he said, is all about someone doing what he always wanted to do, and that's something to which he can relate.

"All of this," he said. "Every step. To be in a movie like this, that's so big, an action comedy? I'm in a movie with The Rock! And I was in a movie with Juliette Binoche and now two with Alan Arkin. I've done little independent movies and romantic comedies and there were all the R-rated romantic comedies, and now this is an action comedy. Everything is a new experience and so exciting. And fun."

He paused, and composed himself, a la Michael Scott. Or Maxwell Smart. "I have felt this way," he said, "for a while now."

AP

In this March 13, 2008 file photo, Steve Carell, left, and Anne Hathaway pose for portrait in Las Vegas, Nev.

Carell hosts charity screening

BOSTON (AP)—Steve Carell stepped out of "The Office" to join the fight against cancer at a benefit that featured a screening of his new movie, "Get Smart."

The screening was held Thursday night to benefit The Zachary Carson Brain Tumor Fund, named after a Newton teenager Carell met on the set of his NBC comedy in February 2007 through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Carell said he has been inspired by Carson and his family.

"It was a great group of people, is a great group of people, and I just felt very honored to be included in that circle," he said.

The screening at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute was the second time Carell has used his celebrity to raise money to fight diffuse pontine glioma, the type of pediatric cancer that killed Carson.

In June 2007, he helped orchestrate a Boston premiere of his movie "Evan Almighty" to fund research into the cancer, which causes an inoperable malignant tumor in the brain stem. Carson died three months later at the age of 19, after a 27-month fight against the disease.

AP

Actor Steve Carell, right, and wife Nancy Walls speak to reporters before a screening of "Get Smart" in Boston, Thursday, June 19, 2008.

Carell said Carson's mother, Roberta, has continued in her quest to combat cancer.

"His mom is a remarkable woman and so much of his legacy I think lives through her and the rest of his family," he said.

Tickets for the screening of the TV spy spoof "Get Smart" sold for $100 apiece. The event also included an auction offering the chance to have Carell record a voice mail message for the winner and front row seats at Fenway Park, among other things.

Carell, 44, and his wife, actress Nancy Walls, are Massachusetts natives with a house in Marshfield. He said it was exciting to be in the area for the Celtics' NBA championship win.

"Nobody cares about sports in Los Angeles," he said. "I might be going out of a limb here, but it's much more of a fair-weather fan mentality."

Carell offered no clues about the next season of "The Office."

"I have no idea," he said. "You know, they're writing episodes. I'm not even being coy. ... Anything can happen at this point."

Martha Stewart banned from Britain

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Martha Stewart has been banned from Britain—but she got a warm welcome Friday in Poland, her grandparents' homeland.

The lifestyle guru was planning to visit Britain in the coming days for business engagements, but the Daily Telegraph and other British newspapers reported Friday that she was denied permission to enter because of her 2004 conviction for obstructing justice.

Stewart's assistants confirmed the visa denial, but they gave no other details beyond saying they hope the decision will be reversed.

"Martha loves England; the country and English culture are near and dear to her heart," said Charles Koppelman, chairman of Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia. "She has engagements with English companies and business leaders and hopes this can be resolved so that she will be able to visit soon."

On Friday evening in Warsaw, it would have been hard to tell that the headache was hanging over her head.

In an elegant home goods shop in the glistening Golden Terraces mall in downtown Warsaw, Stewart was feted by fans eager for a glimpse of the homemaking expert turned business tycoon.

She was in the Polish capital to promote her Martha Stewart Living magazine, which was recently launched in Polish, and to open an exhibition of her photographs, scenes of landscapes and gardens that she took herself.

During a brief speech, Stewart made a point of stressing the link she feels to the country where all four of her grandparents were born—and crediting its hearty cuisine for providing inspiration in the kitchen.

She said that her mother, who was "a fabulous cook," taught her to make traditional Polish delicacies like pierogies, the traditional Polish stuffed dumplings; kielbasa, the Polish-style sausage; and babka, a spongy yeast cake popular at Easter.

"As a Polish-American, I feel a strong connection to this beautiful country and to its people," she said. "This trip is a wonderful opportunity for me to connect with my heritage."

Despite her roots, Stewart is not widely known in Poland—though her legal troubles brought her a degree of attention for the first time.

In 2004, Stewart was convicted in federal court of conspiracy, obstruction of justice and making false statements related to a personal sale of ImClone Systems Inc. stock. She got a five-month prison sentence, and also served an additional five months and three weeks of home confinement.

A Home Office spokeswoman, however, refused to comment about Stewart's entry to Britain, but added: "We continue to oppose the entry to the U.K. of individuals where we believe their presence in the United Kingdom is not conducive to the public good or where they have been found guilty of serious criminal offenses abroad."

British and U.S. citizens generally enjoy visa-free travel between their countries. However, people with certain convictions must apply for visas.

AP

Martha Stewart, 66, U.S. media mogul and television personality, poses with flowers during the opening of an exhibition of her photographs in Warsaw, Poland, Friday, June 20, 2008.

Naomi Campbell gets 200 hours for 'air rage'

LONDON (AP)—Temperamental model Naomi Campbell was sentenced to 200 hours of community service Friday after pleading guilty to assaulting two police officers after an "air rage" incident at Heathrow Airport.

She was also ordered to pay 200 pounds ($400) to each of the police officers she attacked and 150 pounds ($300) to Miles Sutherland, the captain of the British Airways plane she disrupted, in addition to a 2,300 pound ($4,600) fine.

She could have received six months' jail time and a heavy fine for the six offenses stemming from a violent spat in April with British Airways cabin crew and police who removed her from a flight in handcuffs while waiting on the tarmac at Heathrow.

Prosecutors said Campbell used foul language, kicked and spat at police, accused airline personnel of racism and threatened to sue them after she was told that one of her bags had not been placed on the flight to Los Angeles in April.

Campbell was traveling in first class and became abusive to the captain after he left the cockpit to personally explain to her why her bag—and those of many other travelers—had not been placed on the flight.

Prosecutors said she shouted a number of obscenities and tried to kick the police who were summoned to remove her after she "ordered" Sutherland to delay takeoff and look for her missing piece of luggage.

At one point, the black model accused the airline staff of being racist and said they would not have removed her from the flight if she was white. She told a white policewoman that the only reason she was being arrested was because she was "black and famous" and threatened to sue.

AP

British model Naomi Campbell, centre with head down, arrives at Uxbridge Magistrates Court in London, Friday, June 20, 2008.

Magistrate Peter Yiacoumi told Campbell that she was getting credit for past good behavior and for pleading guilty at the first hearing, but said the crimes could not go unpunished. Prosecutors said she kicked and spat at police officers, used foul language repeatedly, and had to be removed from the plane.

"These offenses are aggravated because they were committed within a lengthy incident in a confined space on an aircraft," he said. "Whilst we accept that the loss of your suitcase would have been stressful, your subsequent behavior cannot be justified."

After the sentencing, Campbell's spokesman, Alan Edwards, said the catwalk star was "very, very relieved" the incident was over. He said she felt she had been treated fairly and predicted she would work hard during her community service.

The incident happened shortly after the opening of Heathrow's new Terminal 5 building, which did not function properly at first, resulting in many cancellations and lost bags.

Campbell's lawyer said she was upset because the missing bag contained an outfit that she was contractually obligated to wear at an event in Los Angeles.

Campbell, 38, arrived in court Friday morning in a chauffeur-driven Mercedes and was immediately swarmed by paparazzi. She did not make a statement to the court beyond confirming her name and her address, and her lawyer entered a guilty plea.

Her spokesman, Alan Edwards, said outside the court that Campbell regretted the incident and looked forward to telling her side of the story.

In the past, Campbell has been charged with throwing objects at members of her staff.

Last year, she was sentenced to a week of community service spent mopping floors and cleaning bathrooms in New York City after admitting "reckless assault" for throwing a mobile phone at her housekeeper.

Earlier, she had agreed to take an "anger management" course after a similar attack on an employee in Canada. That employee claimed Campbell threw a mobile phone at her and threatened to throw her out of a moving car.

R.E.M. debuts new video clip at concert

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Stipe thinks the music video is a "dead medium"—but the R.E.M. singer still wants the band's songs to be accompanied by some kind of visuals.

So instead of hiring a top video director to create a clip for their new song "Man-Sized Wreath," they hired an advertising agency. And rather than debut the finished clip on a music network, they took it directly to their fans Thursday night and previewed snippets for a sold-out crowd at their concert at Madison Square Garden.

Stipe said it's just the latest way the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame band is trying to create new ways to connect to its audience.

To promote the release of their latest album "Accelerate," the group has stepped up their Internet presence, starting Web sites that allowed their audience to see the band as it created their songs and others that gave fans audience a chance to take R.E.M. footage and use it in their own video creations.

AP

Michael Stipe of the group R.E.M. performs at Madison Square Garden Thursday, June 19, 2008 in New York.

"It's what I call invisibility of process. Basically we're allowing everyone who cares to kind of peek in on all of the process of creating something, rather than just being handled the finished product at the end, or the finished piece at the end," Stipe told The Associated Press on Thursday, a few hours before the show.

Though R.E.M. has made some award-winning videos in the past, including "Losing My Religion" in the early '90s, Stipe said the time of the traditional video has passed.

"It is what it is, and I think anyone who refutes that is an idiot in 2008," he said. "We can all agree as a medium music videos really found their place in pop culture in the 1990s, (and have been) replaced by the Internet in the 21st century."

It's one reason the trio hired the Canadian ad agency Crush Inc. to create the visuals for "Man-Sized Wreath."

"The music video is a dead medium so I didn't want to go to that industry to create a piece," he said.

But while Stipe is adamant about videos being over, he's not quite sure about what will eventually take their place to promote new songs.

"That's the itch that we're trying to scratch, or the question we're trying to answer," he said.

DeGeneres wins 4th Daytime Emmy

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Ellen DeGeneres has no plans to stop with her fourth consecutive Daytime Emmy for talk show host.

DeGeneres picked up the honor Friday night during the 35th annual Daytime Emmy ceremony at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. Rookie "Rachael Ray" cooked up a surprising win in the talk show category, beating veteran talk show winners "The View" and "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

Would DeGeneres consider pulling an Oprah Winfrey and refrain from submitting herself for future honors?

"I'm not going to take my name out," DeGeneres deadpanned backstage. "Oprah has made so many bad choices. Look at her career."

"General Hospital," which celebrated its 45th anniversary this year, was honored with a record-breaking 10th drama Daytime Emmy. Anthony Geary, who plays Luke Spencer on the ABC show, took the lead actor honor, while Jeanne Cooper of CBS' "The Young and the Restless" won lead actress.

As host, DeGeneres again bested Regis Philbin and Kelly Ripa from "Live with Regis and Kelly" - as well as Barbara Walters, Elisabeth Hasselbeck, Joy Behar, Whoopi Goldberg and Sherri Shepherd from "The View," the 11th consecutive loss for the "View" ladies as hosts.

Other acting honors went to supporting actress Gina Tognoni of CBS' "Guiding Light"; supporting actor Kristoff St. John of "The Young and the Restless"; younger actor Tom Pelphrey of "Guiding Light"; and younger actress Jennifer Landon of CBS' "As the World Turns."

"I only made up my mind to come on Monday," said Cooper, who's been nominated for a lead actress trophy eight times but never won. "I'm glad I did."

Philbin, who's only won as talk show host once in the 20 years he's hosted "Live," took home one trophy, at least: the Lifetime Achievement Award. Jimmy Kimmel presented the award to the 76-year-old, whose career can be traced back to his days as an NBC page in the 1950s.

Kimmel joked that Philbin had logged 30 billion hours on TV as a host of talk, variety and game shows - and as the host of "Live" with his granddaughter Kelly.

AP

Ellen DeGeneres accepts the award for outstanding talk show host for "The Ellen Degeneres Show" at the 35th Annual Daytime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles on Friday, June 20, 2008.

"What a night," Philbin said during his acceptance speech. "Tyra Banks told me to kiss her big beautiful, and I found out that I'm older than the 'Guiding Light.'"

Banks picked up the first ever Daytime Emmy for informative talk show. Banks, "Dr. Phil" and PBS' "A Place of Our Own/ Los Ninos en su Casa" - a daily show about child care that has English and Spanish versions - didn't have to spar with DeGeneres, "The View" or Ray for talk show this year thanks to the new category split.

"I want to thank Oprah Winfrey for her inspiration," Banks said. "She is the queen and will always be the queen."

Also new this year was the legal/courtroom program Daytime Emmy, which was awarded to "Cristina's Court." Formerly, "Judge Judy" competed in a special class category against shows like "Trading Spaces" and "A Baby's Story." This year, the veteran TV judge was joined by "Cristina's Court," "Judge Hatchett Show," "The People's Court" and "Judge David Young."

The behind-the-scenes teams of ABC's "One Life to Life" won both directing and writing team awards.

ABC shook up this year's ceremony by adding a new interactive element and a Golden Globes-style seating arrangement at Hollywood's Kodak Theatre. The live broadcast was co-hosted by Sherri Shepherd from "The View" and Cameron Mathison from "All My Children."

Instead of sitting in the Kodak's stuffy theater seats, nominees gathered around their own banquet tables and were allowed to feast on food and sip booze from an open bar. Digital video cameras were placed at the tables, with footage uploaded to SoapNet.com throughout the broadcast.

"There was a few people enjoying the free booze," co-host Mathison said in the press room.

Ellen, Portia planning their dream wedding

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi have set a wedding date, and to hear the talk show host tell it, the ceremony is going to be a doozy.

DeGeneres, who won her fourth consecutive Daytime Emmy for talk show host Friday night, told reporters backstage at the Kodak Theatre that she and de Rossi are planning their "dream wedding."

"Yes, we have set a wedding date," said DeGeneres. "How do I feel about it? I obviously feel like it's long overdue. I think someday people will look back on this like women not having the right to vote and segregation and anything else that seems ridiculous that we don't all have the same rights."

While the day is on the calendar, DeGeneres didn't say when or where it would take place.

DeGeneres said she plans to fly the de Rossi family in from Australia and that "incredible people" would sing at the ceremony. She said she would show "a tiny bit" of the nuptials on her talk show - and joked that she would use her latest Daytime Emmy as a wedding-cake topper.

"Planning a wedding is very stressful," said DeGeneres. "It's crazy. My gardener is now invited."

Spears' return to LA begins with scuffle

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- Britney Spears is back in Los Angeles, and it didn't take long for trouble to find her.

Within moments of arriving at Los Angeles International Airport on Friday evening, Spears' entourage was involved in a scuffle with a paparazzo.

Between 30 and 35 photographers swarmed her vehicle outside the terminal before a bodyguard pushed a camera into a photographer's face, airport police Sgt. Jim Holcomb said.

Holcomb said the paparazzo complained that the shove left a slight mark on the cheek, but cooler heads prevailed and no charges were filed.

The 26-year-old pop star was unscathed, and Holcomb says officers ensured she was able to leave the airport safely.

Citibank sues Ed McMahon for outstanding debts

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Citibank is suing Ed McMahon, seeking to recoup nearly $200,000 lent to the financially strapped Hollywood icon, court records show. Citibank filed the lawsuit against McMahon in Los Angeles Superior Court on June 9, according to the documents. The bank's suit seeks at least $179,687 in damages as well as attorney's fees on debt incurred within the past four years.

McMahon

The former "Tonight Show" sidekick and "Star Search" host has faced mounting money problems since it was revealed earlier this month that he was $644,000 behind on payments on his Beverly Hills home. The lender, Countrywide Financial Corp., filed a default notice on the home in late February.

McMahon's publicist Howard Bragman said Friday that the McMahons had not yet been served with the lawsuit and will not comment on their personal finances.

McMahon and his wife, Pamela, went on CNN'S Larry King Live earlier his month and described a litany of financial troubles, including a poor economy and McMahon's inability to work as a pitchman since he broke his neck 18 months ago.

"If you spend more money than you make, you know what happens," McMahon told King.

A phone message left with the San Jose, Calif., law firm representing Citibank was not immediately returned Friday.

The Citibank lawsuit was first reported by the entertainment news Web site CelebTV.com.

Loyal friend helps woman cope with aftermath of abuse

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm writing to praise all those friends and family who support their loved ones through and after abusive relationships.

A year ago, I ended a 2 1/2-year relationship with a controlling, emotionally abusive man. During those years, I almost completely ignored my best friend. I was never available to see her socially, and our telephone conversations were few and far between.

I didn't deserve the generosity she showed me after the breakup. If I was sad or lonely, she was there for me every second of the day. She stayed with me long hours while I adjusted to single life, and even dragged her nauseated self (she was pregnant) out with me while I attempted to resume a social life.

I know I am not the only woman who has received friendship, support and love even when they haven't given the same. Readers who have helped loved ones to restructure their lives after an abusive relationship should know that we regard them as angels. They have given us an enormous gift just by answering the phone, sitting with us, or giving us a much-needed hug. I hope all of you know how valuable you are.

INDEBTED IN ILLINOIS

DEAR INDEBTED: I am printing your letter not only because of your tribute to your good friend, but also because of an important point that may have escaped you. Please stop flogging yourself for being unable to give your friend the attention she deserved while you were involved with an abuser.

One of the first things abusers (of both sexes, by the way) do is to isolate their victims from friends and family. It is often done gradually, so the person doesn't realize what is happening until it's too late. After all, when we love someone we don't want to do anything that would make him (or her) uncomfortable, or cause him/her to sulk -- so we allow them to monopolize our time until there isn't any left to give to anyone else. That is what happened to you, and it appears your friend understood that fact. Kudos to her.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I work in retail, and one of my regular customers is a man who stutters. It takes him 10 seconds or more to speak certain words. Would it be considered rude to provide the word for him until he gets caught up? I feel it would relieve him from an uncomfortable situation. My co-worker says it would be rude and would only add to his frustration. Who is right?

WANTS TO BE HELPFUL, SOUTH DAYTONA, FLA.

DEAR WANTS TO BE HELPFUL: I agree with your co-worker. Do not finish the man's sentence for him. Not only would it be a breach of etiquette to draw attention to his problem, you could also lose a regular customer.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: May I comment on a sensitive issue I have never seen addressed in your column? I have noticed an increasing number of memorials at accident sites along freeways and roads.

While I sympathize with the bereaved families, is it necessary to have two places to mourn the loss of their loved one? Isn't the cemetery enough?

M.H. IN L.A.

DEAR M.H.: The memorials you describe are intended as a gesture of respect, and also to remind motorists that the area can be dangerous. However, if a memorial becomes a distraction, the authorities may order it removed.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

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Sonics allege 'forced bleeding' by city

SEATTLE (AP)—The SuperSonics said in court Friday that the city of Seattle tried to make it too expensive for them to leave town.

The "forced bleeding" accusations stemmed from a previously sealed document that was admitted Friday as an exhibit in the city's lawsuit against the team. It discussed "locking them into losses" and exposing "the league to embarrassment in a market they like."

In another newly revealed document, the man spearheading the city's efforts to keep the Sonics—former U.S. Sen. Slade Gorton—acknowledged that failing to win government support for a KeyArena renovation this year would "considerably undercut" the city's legal arguments.

Sonics owner Clay Bennett, who bought the team in 2006 for $350 million, is trying to move the Sonics to Oklahoma City, his hometown. He says the team could lose $60 million if forced to stay for the final two years of its lease at KeyArena, the NBA's smallest venue.

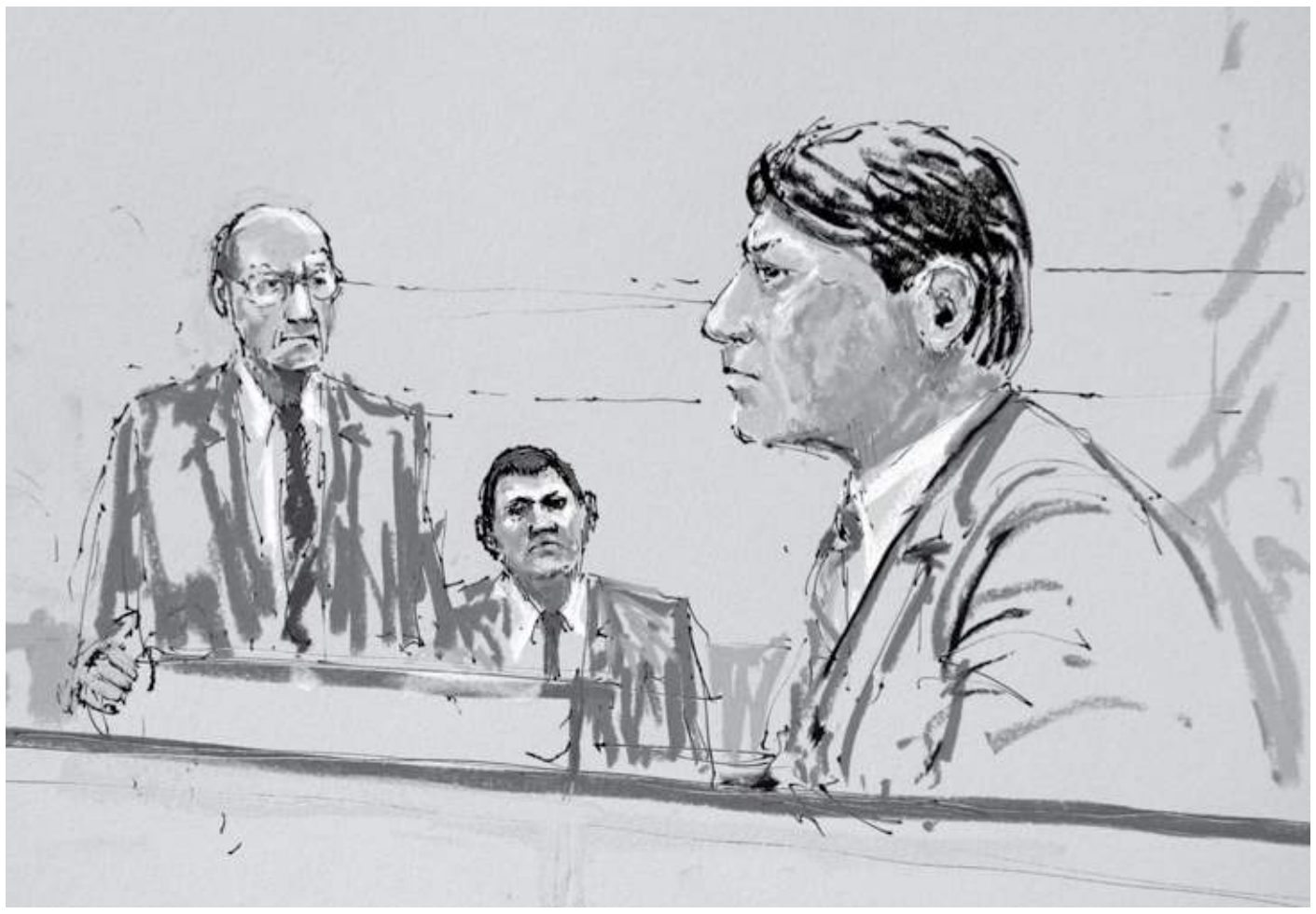
The city is asking U.S. District Judge Marsha Pechman to enforce its terms, hoping two more years would be enough time to find a way to keep the Sonics—or at least another NBA team—in town.

A document titled "The Sonics Challenge, Why a Poisoned Well Affords a Unique Opportunity," was carried by Gorton to a meeting at the home of former Sonics president Wally Walker last September. Also present were Microsoft Corp. chief executive Steve Ballmer and former Safeco Corp. CEO Mike McGavick.

The hour-and-a-half meeting and e-mails about it were the focus of questioning when Walker took the witness stand Friday.

"You wanted to make it too expensive to leave?" Sonics lawyer Paul Taylor asked Walker.

"Oh, I think that's true, yes," he answered. "I would have been fine with whatever it took to keep them from moving the team."



AP

In this photograph of a sketch by Peter Millett, Seattle SuperSonics' lawyer Paul Taylor, left, questions Jyo Singh, right, Seattle Center manager, as Sonics' owner Clay Bennett looks on during a federal court hearing Tuesday, June 17, 2008, in Seattle.

But encouraging Bennett to sell was option B, Walker said, because the first choice was for him to keep the team in Seattle.

Citing the "poisoned well" strategy, Sonics attorneys argued that the city brought its lawsuit in an attempt to bleed Bennett's ownership group, the Professional Basketball Club, hoping that the expense of litigation would induce him to sell to a local owner. Because the lawsuit was brought in bad faith, the city has "unclean hands," and should not be allowed to reap the benefits of its actions in court, they say.

In response, the city insisted that by definition, suing to enforce its rights under the lease cannot be considered bad faith. Furthermore, its lawyers argued, the city cannot force the team to sell.

Courts are often reluctant to force parties to fulfill contract obligations against their will; instead, they require monetary damages to be paid to the injured party. But in this case, the lease says either side may "specifically enforce" its terms.

But on Feb. 13, Gorton wrote an e-mail to others working to keep the Sonics in town. He acknowledged the failure to win public and government support for a KeyArena renovation would make it less likely that a judge would force the Sonics to stay.

"The governor has spoken directly to the mayor ... who feels that the attitude of the voters is so negative that he no longer plans to put a Seattle Center issue on the ballot this fall," Gorton wrote. "This makes a final decision even next year dubious.

"I told the governor that this schedule almost inevitably means that the NBA will approve the transfer in April, subject to the lawsuit, and that it would considerably undercut our chances of specifically enforcing the KeyArena lease."

The KeyArena effort failed, and the NBA approved the relocation.

Asked after court whether he agreed with Gorton's assessment, Seattle lawyer Paul Lawrence said, "No. Absolutely not."

Lawrence objected to the admission of the "poisoned well" document as an exhibit, saying the city had no hand in creating it. Walker testified that it was primarily drawn up by McGavick, who was working on his own as a concerned citizen and basketball fan.

Lawrence was overruled: At the time of the meeting, Gorton had been hired as Seattle's lead counsel, Walker had been retained as a consultant, and Ballmer was considered a potential buyer for the team.

Friday was expected to be the final day of testimony, but Seattle City Councilman Nick Licata's turn on the stand had not concluded by day's end. The trial is scheduled to resume Thursday, with Licata to be followed by a rebuttal witness for the city, Deputy Mayor Tim Ceis, and closing arguments.

If Pechman rules that the team can leave, a separate trial would be held to determine what damages the team must pay the city for breaking the lease.

Stewart Cink leads Travelers Championship

CROMWELL, Conn. (AP)—Stewart Cink moved to the top of the Travelers Championship leaderboard Friday, making two long eagle putts in a 6-under 64 that left him a stroke ahead of defending champion Hunter Mahan and two others.

Cink, the 1997 winner at TPC River Highlands, is seeking his first victory of the season after six top-10 finishes.

"I hope it's just a matter of time," Cink said. "I hope it's a matter of about two days."

It didn't look good early for Cink, who began the day at 4 under and promptly bogeyed the first two holes. He got one back with a birdie at the third before knocking in a 26-foot putt for eagle on the par-5 sixth. He bettered that shot by curling in a 49-foot right-to-left eagle putt on the 13th.

"I just kept staying down and staying focused on doing what I can do and that's just stroking the putter through the ball, almost not looking up to watch it," said Cink, who opened with a 66 on Thursday en route to a 10-under 130 total.

Mahan shot a 63, the best round of the day, to join Ken Duke and Lucas Glover at 9-under. Duke and Glover shot 66s.

Mahan has been under par in 10 of his last 11 rounds at the TPC River Highlands, where he won last year in a playoff with journeyman Jay Williamson. Mahan tied for second in 2006, and has made five consecutive cuts on the course.

"I just feel comfortable here," Mahan said. "I make a lot of free swings and I can play golf and I don't have to worry about where the ball might end up."

On Friday, the ball usually ended up in the fairway, on the green or in the hole. The 26-year-old Mahan shot a bogey-free round, with seven birdies, including four on his first seven holes. He hit all 14 of fairways and 15 of 18 greens.

Mahan would be only the second back-to-back winner in the 55-year history of the tournament. Phil Mickelson won in 2001 and 2002.

Duke and Glover followed first-round 65s with their 66s.

"It was a good day, I mean a steady day," Duke said.

Ninety-eight players finished the first two rounds under par, and 72 made the cut at 3 under, the lowest cut on tour this season.

"This course is playing fairly simple, and the scores are definitely out there," said amateur Michael Thompson, who was the low amateur at last week's U.S. Open.

Thompson (67) finished at 8 under Friday, tied for fifth place with Brad Adamonis (68), the tour's oldest rookie at 35, and Kevin Sutherland (65).

Adamonis, from nearby Cumberland R.I., had to make a save on his final hole of the day. He hit his second shot over the green and underneath a small tree. But he managed to chip it onto the green, and sink the par putt.

"I'm thinking maybe it's out of bounds," he said. "Luckily, I had a window where I can get it on the green and I made about a 15-footer and it was a great way to end the day."

Adamonis, who suffers from vertigo, had missed six cuts and withdrawn once in 14 starts coming into the Travelers.

A group of five finished the day at 7-under 133, including Tom Pernice Jr. (68), Heath Slocum (66) and Kenny Perry (67), who eagled his first hole of the day, pitching in a shot from 133 yards out.

"I had not holed a shot in a long time, and that was quite a way to open your eyes a little bit and put a big smile on your face," Perry said.

Source: Wade picked for US Olympic basketball team

Barring a last-moment change of plans, Dwyane Wade is heading to Beijing.

Wade, the Miami Heat guard who led his team to the 2006 NBA championship and has been battling injuries for much of the two years since, will be named to the U.S. Olympic basketball team Monday, according to a person familiar with the decision. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because USA Basketball won't announce the team until Monday.

Wade's Olympic selection first was reported by the South Florida Sun-Sentinel. Wade could not be reached for comment Thursday.

The 6-foot-4 guard has been rehabbing since May 5 in Chicago, and hosted USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo there for a workout last week. Colangelo came away impressed, and apparently convinced that Wade's surgically repaired left knee could hold up to the rigors of the Olympic schedule.

The team will formally begin training in mid-July and is scheduled to start the Olympic series of games in Beijing Aug. 10. The gold medal game is Aug. 24, the day the games close.

It would be Wade's second Olympics; he was part of the bronze-medal winning squad in Athens in 2004. And his workouts in Chicago over the past few weeks have been going on with a gold medal at the forefront of his mind.

"It would mean everything to me," Wade told The Associated Press last month. "It's what we talked about after getting the bronze, right after getting that medal, and I really want to be part of the team that puts the USA back on top."

Several other players already have announced they have been informed of their Olympic spot, including Dallas point guard Jason Kidd. The Rocky Mountain News reported last week that Denver forward Carmelo Anthony also was assured an Olympic spot.

Wade missed 31 games last season because of injuries, and the Heat suffered mightily, finishing 15-67 the worst record in the NBA.

He has said repeatedly that whether he plays in Beijing or not, he will be "100 percent" when the Heat open training camp under new head coach Erik Spoelstra in late September. ***(AP)***

Shoulder surgery could end Curt Schilling's career

BOSTON (AP)—Even if he never pitches again, Curt Schilling has left his mark on the Boston Red Sox by helping them win two World Series titles. And that's a distinct possibility now that he faces shoulder surgery.

The 41-year-old right-hander, one of the best postseason pitchers in baseball history, will have the season-ending operation Monday after the rehabilitation program preferred by the club didn't work.

"Coming back from this surgery at 31 would be an enormous challenge, at 41 more so," Schilling wrote on his blog, 38pitches.com on Friday. "BUT, if that is an option at least I'll be able to make that decision with all the cards on the table, and it will end on terms I choose. I won't come back throwing 85 with so-so crap. If there is not an option to come back and be good, I won't."

Schilling's bullpen session last Friday did not go well. He was examined Monday by his personal physician, Dr. Craig Morgan, who had recommended surgery during spring training. The Red Sox insisted on a more conservative approach of rehabilitation.

The 20-year veteran, who hasn't pitched since last season, announced plans for surgery Friday on WEEI radio. Morgan, who operated on Schilling's right shoulder in 1995 and 1999, told The Associated Press that he would perform the operation in Wilmington, Del., where he is based.

"This could conceivably be a career-ending procedure," Morgan said by cell phone from Naples, Fla. "We're doing this so that Curt Schilling will have a totally functional, pain-free shoulder for the rest of his life."

Morgan estimated recovery time at six-to-eight months.

"I talked to him yesterday a couple of times," general manager Theo Epstein said Friday. "He's realistic about it. He said, 'There's a very good chance that I've thrown my last pitch.'

"But I think he's also prepared to try to work hard this winter and come back in the second half of the season somewhere."

The decision to have surgery didn't surprise Epstein or manager Terry Francona, who have stayed updated on Schilling's rehab. The Red Sox have a deep starting staff without him.

On his blog, Schilling expressed no regrets and thanked fans.

"I have not one single solitary thing in any way shape or form to be unhappy about. There is a world full of people suffering far more and far worse than my shoulder," he wrote.

"To you fans, thank you, thank you, thank you. If it is all over, every single moment and memory I'll take away from my career comes with your involvement and support."

The rehabilitation strengthened his shoulder but didn't eliminate the pain in a torn tendon that Morgan had said needed surgery.

Morgan said he has no animosity toward the Red Sox and he and team physician Dr. Thomas Gill "are on the same page in every aspect of this."

Epstein said it was premature to say Schilling wouldn't pitch for Boston in the second half of next season, although he's signed only for this year at $8 million. But he didn't sound optimistic.

"He made a tremendous impact here," Epstein said. "He certainly lived up to his end of the bargain and it was a very effective marriage while it lasted."

Francona spoke calmly about Schilling before the opener of a three-game series against St. Louis.

"Maybe because I've been watching it day to day, it's not such a shock," Francona said. "We've been trying to fight this since January."

Schilling won World Series with Arizona in 2001 and Boston with sweeps in 2004 against St. Louis and 2007 against Colorado. He started Boston's 2-1 win in Game 2 against the Rockies.

But he told WEEI that, "If you use a scale of 1 to 10 and 10 is pitching in the big leagues, I'm at about 3 right now."

Ramirez hits homer in bottom of ninth and Cubs beat White Sox, 4-3

CHICAGO (AP)—Aramis Ramirez led off the bottom of the ninth with his second homer of the game to send the Chicago Cubs past the Chicago White Sox 4-3 in a clash of division leaders at raucous Wrigley Field on Friday.

Ramirez lined a 1-0 pitch from Scott Linebrink (2-2) over the fence in center and the majority of the 41,106 fans—most of them obviously pulling for the Cubs—went into a frenzy.

Mariners 10, Braves 2

At Atlanta, Jose Lopez drove in four runs with three hits, including a three-run double in the eighth, and Seattle enjoyed one of its best offensive games of the year, routing the Braves in Jim Riggleman's debut.

Adrian Beltre was 2-for-4 with three RBIs.

Reds 4, Yankees 2

At New York, Edinson Volquez pitched seven sharp innings in Cincinnati's first game at Yankee Stadium in 32 years, and the Reds beat Mike Mussina and New York to end a five-game skid.

Jolbert Cabrera had four hits before departing with a dislocated finger and Joey Votto homered for Cincinnati, which snapped New York's seven-game winning streak. Ken Griffey Jr. added an RBI single in his first game in the Bronx since 1999.

Angels 7, Phillies 1

At Philadelphia, Ervin Santana struck out nine in seven impressive innings, Vladimir Guerrero hit a two-run homer and Los Angeles beat Philadelphia in a matchup of division leaders.

Santana (9-3) allowed two hits and one unearned run. He overpowered the National League's second-highest scoring offense with a nasty slider and a blazing fastball that reached 98 mph (158 kph).

Astros 4, Rays 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Carlos Lee had a two-run double and Houston snapped an eight-game losing streak.

Lee put the Astros ahead 2-0 with a two-out, two-run double in the first. He has 38 RBIs in his last 42 games.

Twins 7, Diamondbacks 2

At Minneapolis, Scott Baker won for the first time in more than two months, Craig Monroe homered and Minnesota beat Randy Johnson and Arizona.

The Big Unit hasn't won since May 18 and remains stuck at 288 career wins, tied for 24th all time. He has lost four straight starts for the first time since dropping five in a row from June 20-July 10, 1999.

Pirates 1, Blue Jays 0, 12 innings

At Pittsburgh, shortstop John McDonald misplayed Jason Michaels' hard-hit grounder with the bases loaded and none out for a game-ending error in the 12th inning, and Pittsburgh ruined Cito Gaston's return as Toronto's manager.

Zach Duke shut out Toronto for seven innings and relievers Damaso Marte, Matt Capps and Tyler Yates combined for five scoreless innings.

Mets 7, Rockies 2

At Denver, the New York Mets beat the Colorado Rockies 7-2 in the National League on Friday, with Carlos Delgado hitting a two-run homer amidst a five-run second inning.

Interim manager Jerry Manuel won for the second straight game, his first consecutive wins since taking over for the fired Willie Randolph.

New York pitcher John Maine made a shaky start, conceding a two-run homer in the first inning, but blanked the Rockies after that, retiring eight straight at one point. He also had six strikeouts.

HEO

From Page 28

The Noumea event is a Grade 5 ITF Junior tournament which will give 30 ranking points to the champion, 20 to the runner-up, 15 to the semifinalists, 10 to the quarterfinalists, and five to Round of 16 qualifiers.

The Grade 5 event is an introduction to the ITF Junior Circuit.

Aside from the tournament in New Caledonia, Heo will be leaving for Fiji later this month to compete in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships and in the Air Pacific Open Junior Championships. The two events in Fiji will run from June 30 to July 5.

Heo will be leading the North Pacific Team in the POJC, while he will be playing against players from Australia, New Zealand, and selected East and North Pacific bets in the Open Championships.

The 16-year-old netter automatically qualified for the POjC after a runner-up finish in the same event last year, while his other NMI teammates vied for slots in the regional meet through the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam last week.

CNMI bets James Camacho, Mayuko Arriola, Dina Jones, Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, and Thea Minor will join Heo to Lautoka after finishing among the Top 3 in the NPQ held at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Tamuning.

TAPOKI

From Page 28

who has recorded 13.45m. The CNMI and Tahiti athletes have no seed performances listed, but it is hard to see Satupai being seriously challenged by athletes from the two islands.

Three are entered in the discus throw and the leading contender is again Satupai. Buard has a listed performance of 28.13m and CNMI's Jenequa Benavente has no listed performance.

The same trio are listed in the hammer throw. This time Satupai does not have such a large lead over the other two. Her seed distance is 38.74m and that for Buard is 32.64m. Benavente has no listed seed performance.

The javelin contest has six entries and three are within two meters of each other. Marginally ahead as favorite is Patricia Taea from the Cook Islands (39.27m). Next on the ranking list is New Zealand's Tamara Anstis (38.07m) and then Buard (37.83m). The only other athlete with a seed performance is American Samoa's Faleala Talataina (31.17m).

SEDA

From Page 28

Lording it over in the Tuesday B League and C League were Naked Fish Naked Boys and Jonny's Taya Bida, respectively, while Oleai B-52s was tops in the Ladies League.

The awards banquet for the winter-spring season of SEDA costs $25 for adults and $12.50 for kids.

For more information about SEDA's summer-fall season awards ceremony today, contact coordinator Charlotte Tenepere at 233-4397. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	46	30	.605	–
Tampa Bay	43	30	.589	1 1/2
New York	40	34	.541	5
Baltimore	38	34	.528	6
Toronto	35	40	.467	10 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	41	32	.562	–
Minnesota	38	36	.514	3 1/2
Detroit	34	39	.466	7
Cleveland	34	40	.459	7 1/2
Kansas City	31	43	.419	10 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	44	30	.595	–
Oakland	40	33	.548	3 1/2
Texas	37	38	.493	7 1/2
Seattle	26	47	.356	17 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	42	33	.560	–
Florida	39	34	.534	2
New York	36	36	.500	4 1/2
Atlanta	36	39	.480	6
Washington	30	45	.400	12

Central Division

Chicago	46	28	.622	–
St. Louis	43	32	.573	3 1/2
Milwaukee	39	34	.534	6 1/2
Pittsburgh	35	39	.473	11
Houston	34	40	.459	12
Cincinnati	34	41	.453	12 1/2

West Division

Arizona	39	35	.527	–
Los Angeles	34	39	.466	4 1/2
San Francisco	32	42	.432	7
San Diego	32	43	.427	7 1/2
Colorado	31	43	.419	8

Yesterday's Games

Chicago Cubs 4, Chicago White Sox 3
St. Louis 5, Boston 4
Pittsburgh 1, Toronto 0, 12 innings
Cincinnati 4, N.Y. Yankees 2
L.A. Angels 7, Philadelphia 1
Houston 4, Tampa Bay 3
Seattle 10, Atlanta 2
Washington 4, Texas 3, 14 innings
Baltimore 8, Milwaukee 5
Minnesota 7, Arizona 2
San Francisco 9, Kansas City 4
N.Y. Mets 7, Colorado 2
San Diego 6, Detroit 2
Oakland 7, Florida 6, 11 innings
Cleveland 6, L.A. Dodgers 4, 10 innings

TRAVELERS CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

CROMWELL, Connecticut (AP)–Scores Friday from the Travelers Championship, a $6 million (Euro 4 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at 6,837-yard, par-70 (35-35) TPC River Highlands:

SECOND ROUND

Stewart Cink	66-64	130
Hunter Mahan	68-63	131
Ken Duke	65-66	131
Lucas Glover	65-66	131
Brad Adamonis	64-68	132
Kevin Sutherland	67-65	132
Michael H. Thompson	65-67	132
Tom Pernice, Jr.	65-68	133
Kenny Perry	66-67	133
Heath Slocum	67-66	133
Tommy Armour III	69-64	133
Bubba Watson	66-68	134
Brian Davis	64-70	134
Fred Funk	66-68	134
Vijay Singh	66-68	134
Corey Pavin	68-66	134
John Rollins	70-64	134
John Huston	65-69	134
John Mallinger	67-67	134
Steve Elkington	70-64	134
Brenden Pappas	69-65	134
Brett Rumford	68-66	134
Ben Curtis	68-66	134
Stuart Appleby	68-66	134
Jason Day	67-67	134
Jon Mills	70-64	134
Johnson Wagner	64-71	135
Tim Herron	66-69	135
Carl Pettersson	70-65	135
Bill Haas	68-67	135
Kevin Na	69-66	135
Michael Allen	69-66	135
Peter Karmis	65-70	135
Craig Kanada	67-68	135
Vaughn Taylor	67-68	135
Chris DiMarco	66-69	135
Jason Allred	68-67	135
Kent Jones	66-70	136
Tag Ridings	66-70	136
Greg Kraft	69-67	136
Billy Mayfair	66-70	136
Nicholas Thompson	67-69	136
Dustin Johnson	66-70	136
Chris Stroud	67-69	136
Michael Letzig	68-68	136
Kevin Streelman	73-63	136
Andrew Buckle	68-68	136
Dudley Hart	68-68	136
Jim McGovern	67-69	136
Peter Lonard	66-70	136
J.J. Henry	66-70	136
David Toms	67-69	136
Charlie Wi	68-68	136
Steve Marino	67-70	137
Notah Begay III	66-71	137
Justin Rose	65-72	137
Joe Ogilvie	70-67	137
Nick O'Hern	68-69	137
Billy Andrade	69-68	137
Harrison Frazar	69-68	137
Bob Estes	69-68	137
Matt Kuchar	67-70	137
Briny Baird	67-70	137
Chad Campbell	67-70	137
Larry Mize	67-70	137
Steve Lowery	64-73	137
Olin Browne	68-69	137
D.J. Trahan	67-70	137
Jason Gore	71-66	137
Scott McCarron	68-69	137
Bob Sowards	67-70	137
Webb Simpson	67-70	137

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

Grand Prix Day 1 Schedule (June 22)

5pm	Women's Hammer Throw
5pm	Men's Hammer Throw
5pm	Women's 200m Sprint
5:20pm	Men's 200 Sprint
5:30pm	Women's Long Jump
5:30pm	Men's Long Jump
5:45pm	Women's 800m Run
6pm	Men's 800m Run
6pm	Women's Discus Throw
6pm	Women's 100m Hurdles
6:15pm	Men's 110m Hurdles
6:30pm	Women's 3000m Steeplechase
6:45pm	Men's 3000m Steeplechase
6:45pm	Men's Discus Throw
7pm	Women's 400m Sprint
7:15pm	Men's 400m Sprint

Hammer, long jump, and discus from 5pm onwards

The Week in Sports

Junior netters dominate headlines

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The week in sports saw the islands' junior netters dominate the headlines as they took six of the 11 slots up for grabs for the 2008 North Pacific Team to the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

James Camacho, Mayuko Arriola, Dina Jones, Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, and Thea Minor joined automatic qualifier Ji Hoon Heo to Lautoka, Fiji next month after finishing in the Top 3 of their respective divisions in the North Pacific Qualifier held last week at the Rick Ninete Tennis Center in Tamuning, Guam.

Kitz Barja, Allan Hernandez, and Ed Echavez, for their part, won their respective divisions in the 2008 Philippine Bowling Association Classified Tournament, which concluded last Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Barja won Class A after beating Simon Manacop in the finals. Hernandez, for his part, topped Class B but not after getting a scare from up-and-coming youth bowler Raphael Zapanta. Diana Chong also forced Echavez into sudden death in Class C before losing in the second game.

In other sports news, Eli Torgeson won the three-sport race of the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon & Reef Swim held last June 14 in the CNMI's gaming capital.

The Commonwealth Health Center anesthesiologist cut three-time Tagaman champion Hideya Miyazuka's lead after the swim by pedaling like there was no tomorrow to top the race in a time of 2:27:19.

The 2008 Miller Lite 4-Person Beach Volleyball League, meanwhile, concluded last June 12 with 15 of Fame beating pennant champion Kiss My Pass in the finals at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

In other beach volleyball news, the tandems of Jazz Roscow and Larry Sharry and Heather Kennedy and Nicole LeBlanc topped their respective divisions in last weekend's 10th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend also played at the San Antono landmark.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's American Red Cross swimming lessons also kicked off last June 14 with 59 participants signing up at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan south pool.

Margaret Tenorio, for her part, won the CNMI Women's Golf Association June Ace of the Month Tournament after firing a net score of 70 last June 14 at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

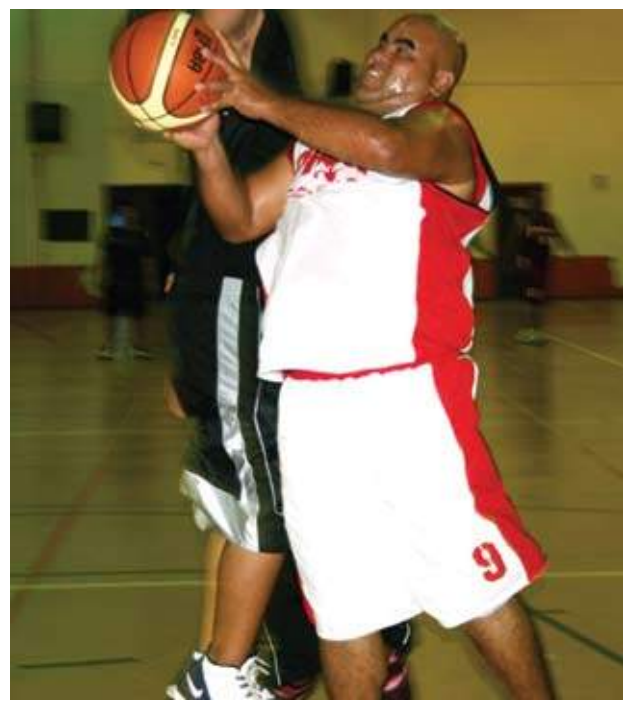
The past week also saw action continue in the PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League and 3rd Annual Budweiser-Saipan Major League even as the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League resumed its playoff round at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Christian Miller, seen here in a file photo, topped the boys' 13-and-under division of the 2008 North Pacific Team to the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships held last week in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Thea Minor, seen here in a file photo, topped the girls' 13-and-under division of the 2008 North Pacific Team to the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships held last week in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Japan's Hiromi Kozono catches his breath after coming in 16th best with a time of 3:17:28.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Tyce Mister came in fourth in the 9th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue after tearing the tape in 2:50:49.



MARK RABAGO
Northern Marianas College Proa forward Jake Villagomez goes up for two of his eight points in their game against Legislature Wednesday night in the 2008 PTI Inter-Government Business Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Far left, Jesse Phonsutjit scored two goals in Devil's Advocates' 2-3 loss to Gil Fever in Tuesday's 2008 NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League game at the CPA Airport Field.

MARK RABAGO

Left, Bruce Berline spikes the ball while teammate Chris Nelson looks on in last Sunday's 10th Annual Seaside Grill Beach Volleyball Weekend at the Pacific Islands Club sand courts.

MARK RABAGO

GEC Pawnshop forward Badong Camacho sizes up the defense of SMF Seabridge's Koi Bernardo in their open division playoff game in the Inaugural FMI Inter-Color Basketball League Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO

MARK RABAGO
Kids of all ages and sizes took part in the clinic held at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

MARK RABAGO
Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan kicked off its summer American Red Cross swimming lessons last June 14 with 59 participants taking part in the clinic.

Junior netters dominate headlines

The week in sports saw the islands' junior netters dominate the headlines as they took six of the 11 slots up for grabs for the 2008 North Pacific Team to the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Sonics allege 'forced bleeding' by city

The SuperSonics said in court Friday that the city of Seattle tried to make it too expensive for them to leave town.

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Heo to play in ITF tourney in Noumea

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

While her younger teammates were busy qualifying for the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Guam, CNMI's top junior netter Ji Hoon Heo has spent the past 10 days sharpening his game in Lautoka, Fiji for the 2008 Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie tournament set to start today in Noumea.

"I've been a bit busy lately. I arrived here in Fiji from South Korea on the 11th. Right away, I started training. I will be leaving for New Caledonia on the 21st and the tournament in New Caledonia starts on the 22nd. This is an ITF event too. I will also be playing an ITF event in Fiji as soon as I get back which starts on June 30," he said in a recent email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Heo added that his training regimen at the Dr. Robin Mitchell Tennis Centre consists of running on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6am to 6:30am. Stretching for 30 minutes from 6:30am to 7am, and tennis practice from 9am to 11am and then from 3pm to 6pm.

On Saturdays, Heo said he and other members of the ITF Oceania Junior Tennis Team play from 10am to 2pm. "We just play matches with each other like nine-game sets. That's about it and on Sunday, we rest."

Heo said he has no idea who he will be playing against in New Caledonia, but he surmises that it would include some of the best 18-and-under players from Australia, New Caledonia, and other Pacific Island nations.

The tournament in the French territory will run from June 22 to 27 and will offer ITF Junior ranking points to participants.

See HEO on Page 26

SAIPAN TRIBUNE
Ji Hoon Heo, seen here in a file photo, will take part in the 2008 Open Junior BNP Paribas de Nouvelle Caledonie tournament set to start today in Noumea.

Tapoki is woman to beat in discus

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Women's discus medalists in the 2007 Pacific Games in Apia, Samoa, from left, Ana Po'uhila of American Samoa, Tereapii Tapoki of Cook Islands, and Glenda Polelei of New Caledonia.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Cook Islands record holder Terapii Tapoki is expected to take home the gold medal in the women's discuss of the 2008 Oceania Championships.

According to the Oceania Athletics' website, Tapoki is literally head and shoulders above the field with a 23-meter advantage over the next best discus participant—Perle Buard of Tahiti.

Tapoki's seed distance is 55.72m, but her best in the 2008 rankings is 53.70m—still a comfortable distance ahead of everyone else's seed throw.

Australia's Kelly Humphries, meanwhile, is the clear favorite in the hammer with a seed performance of 51.74m, while teammate Olivia Birkett is in contention for the bronze with a seed performance of 37.96m.

Guam's Aiko Imbat is the best from the Pacific Islands with a seed throw of 24.88m.

The women's javelin throw, meanwhile, is expected to be contested by Fiji's Milika Tuivanuavou (seed throw of 39.92m) and Cook Islands' Maki Lockington (37.92m) . The third competitor in the event is Imbat with her best distance at 27.57m.

In the under-18 women's, Margaret Satupai from Samoa looks likely to continue her impressive young career.

She has a seed distance of 14.62m, well ahead of Australia's Iesha Beer

See TAPOKI on Page 26

Rey Ferraz wins June Ace

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tournament director Rey Ferraz gave himself a new hat to wear last Sunday and that is of Fil-Taga Golfers Association June Ace after topping the monthly tournament held at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Ferraz fired a net score of 66 to win the competition. He won on the strength of his 24 handicap which sliced his gross 90 for the score to beat in the June Ace.

John Matsumoto was just a shot off Ferraz's pace with his net 67. The 21-handicap Matsumoto needed 88 strokes to finish the 18 holes of golf.

Fellow 21-handicapper Matutino Adony took third place with his post handicap score of 71. Completing the Top 5 for the month of June were James Lin and Fr. Manny Corcuera who shot net scores of 73 and 75, respectively.

A total of 12 Fil-Taga members took part in Sunday's monthly tee off and they are the following: Henry Bautista (76 net), Nestor Siruelo (79), Senate President Pete Reyes (80), Freddie Cataluna (80), Jess Yumul (80), Mando Guban (81), and Ted Malaran (84).

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

SEDA awards banquet today at PIC

The awards banquet for the 2008 summer-fall season of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association will be held today, June 22, beginning 11am at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.

The six division champions of the summer-fall season will be honored and awarded their respective trophies.

Oleai Black Stallions led all the winners by topping the Masters League, while Krystal A Destroyers and Gaia Naughty Boys captured the A League and the Tuesday B League, respectively.

See SEDA on Page 26